

SERMON OUTLINE

In Matthew 28 we hear 4 messages following Jesus' Resurrection.

- I. The angel speaks a message of hope (vs. 1-7).
- II. Jesus speaks a message of encouragement (vs. 8-10).
- III. The chief priests speak a message of deception (vs. 11-15).
- IV. Jesus speaks a message of mission (vs. 16-20).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 1, 2018

Passage: Matthew 28:1-20

Memory Passage: Matthew 28:5-6

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 28:1-20.** Why did the women “(go) to see the tomb” early in the morning? What were they expecting to see?
- (b) Who is “the other Mary?”
- (c) Why do you think only the women came early to the tomb? What emotions do you think they were feeling as they walked? How would you have felt if you were with them?
- (d) Should the men have been at the tomb also? Why or why not? Would you have been at the tomb early? Why or why not?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 28:1-20.** What is the significance of the earthquake and the description of the angel? How would you have felt if you saw this being & what would have been your response?
- (b) Why did the angel tell the women not to be afraid (who are not described as being afraid until v. 8) but did not speak to the guards (who are described as being extremely afraid)? What reason does the angel give the women for not being afraid?
- (c) Why is it important for the women to “come and see” (v. 6) before they are commanded to “go quickly and tell” (v. 7)?
- (d) To what does “as he said” refer (see Matt. 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; cf. 12:40)? Should the disciples have expected the crucifixion and empty tomb? Would you have expected them or would you have shared the disciples’ response? Explain.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 28:1-20.** Why is the message to be taken to the disciples important enough to mention twice (vs. 7 & 10)?
- (b) Why would the Jewish leadership want a false story circulated (vs. 11-15)?
- (c) What major event is assumed but not described in these verses? Why do you think there was not an eyewitness to the actual, physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ?
- (d) Since there were no eyewitnesses to the resurrection, what evidence do you find in this passage that proves it to be true? What other passages of Scripture contain proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:1-23.** What becomes possible for believers as a result of Jesus’ resurrection? Why is this now possible?
- (b) In what ways does Paul instruct us to apply the power of the resurrection in our fight against sin?
- (c) Fighting sin requires recognizing sin. With what sins have you grown so comfortable that you no longer try to kill them?
- (d) In what ways are you actively crucifying sin in your life based on the power of the resurrection? Write at least 3 new ways you will apply Romans 6 as you fight against sin and work toward your sanctification.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matt. 28:16-20:** What were some of the disciples doubting? How are Jesus’ next words an antidote to this doubt?
- (b) Upon what basis has “all authority” been given to Jesus (we sometimes forget how closely tied are the Great Commission & the resurrection of Jesus!)?
- (c) In the text, how are the Great Commission & authority connected? Do you view the Great Commission as a command or a suggestion (you might have two answers here, one tied to what you believe to be true and one tied to what your actual obedience to this command conveys to be true)?
- (d) Based on our last three weeks of sermons and study, write down at least 4 ways you will endeavor to be more faithful in working with God as you preach the gospel as His ambassador of reconciliation.

DATE: April 1, 2018

PASSAGE: Matthew 28:1-20

Resurrection Power