

Matthew 28:1-15

Sunday: Resurrection Sunday

Section 1: 28:1-10 – Jesus is Worshiped

Earthquake #2 – 28:2

The first earthquake occurred at the time of Jesus' death upon the cross (Matt. 26:51) and the second occurs at the time of His resurrection (Matt. 28:2). Earthquakes had played important roles throughout redemption history. God caused an earthquake on Mount Sinai when revealing the law to Moses (Ex. 19:18) and Mount Horeb when revealing Himself to Elijah. Not to mention the earthquake in Jonah and all the earthquakes as Jesus returns during His second coming. God once again is using an earthquake to announce His presence.

Like dead men – 28:4

The Roman guards were frozen in fear and they heard the entire conversation. Why is this important? Because later the guards will report the story and then deny the story for money.

Risen...just as He said – 28:6

Jesus was true to His Word. God's Word is always to be trusted. Isaiah 40:8 says: *The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever*" (CSB).

From Genesis to Revelation, we see God revealing the gospel to us through His Word. At the heart of the gospel (death, burial and resurrection of Jesus) we see the Trinity working together in perfect unity redeeming mankind.

John 10:17-18 - *"This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."* (CSB)

Galatians 1:1 - *Paul, an apostle—not from men or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead...* (CSB)

Romans 8:11 - *"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you."* (CSB)

The benefit of a sound Biblical Theology is we can see how all of the Word of God works together in revealing who He is.

Not only do we enjoy seeing the Godhead working together to bring redemption; we also see how the OT mercy seat is fulfilled in Christ.

The Conversation – 28:5-7

In Mark, Luke and John we pick up a little more detail about the conversation between the women and angel.

From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 we see the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) working together in perfect unity bring redemption to man. (Commentary Quote)

Genesis 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* (CSB)

Revelation 22:21 - *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with everyone. Amen.* (CSB)

They worshiped Him – 28:9

Throughout the Scriptures we see people attempting to worship angels, prophets and missionaries...and every time they rejected worship and pointed the person back to God. Here, Jesus receives worship. Why? Because He is just as much God as the Father and Holy Spirit.

The women falling to the feet of Jesus and worshipping also gives us a glimpse of His second return. Philippians 2:9-11 (CSB) says:

⁹For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

They will SEE Me there – 28:10

Jesus' resurrection proves God's Word is perfectly true: Matthew 12:40; 16:21; 17:9; 23. The resurrection is central to our redemption. The hope of all humanity is centered around the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus' resurrection was a bodily, physical resurrection. This truth speaks to the resurrection we will experience one day. We will have a physical, bodily resurrection.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is God's Word so vital to our faith?
- ❖ Why is the unity of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) important?
- ❖ Why is having an understanding of the Bible as a whole important?
- ❖ Jesus is our Sacrificial Lamb. Why do we need Jesus for our redemption?
- ❖ How are you worshipping God on a daily basis?
- ❖ How does the promise of a physical, bodily resurrection impact our faith?

Section 2: 28:11-15 - The Soldiers Bribed to Lie

Priests and elders come up with a plan – 28:12

The priests and elders seem to be determined to reject Jesus as the Messiah at all cost. Nothing was going to change their minds. Not miracles, signs, healings, a physical resurrection, eye witnesses...nothing. Even though they had witnessed them all.

The story – 28:15

Just because something is told and widely accepted doesn't mean it's true. In this story we see how powerful selfish ambition and greed can be. This reminds me of a quote I heard one time: "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay" (unknown).

Sin is extremely dangerous. Every sin seeks to destroy us. Every sin causes us to abandon truth. Every sin draws us from God. Sin is not to be praised, treasured or ignored. Despite the guards seeing angels...sin caused them to deny Christ.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is sin so dangerous?
- ❖ Why is submission to God's will important?