

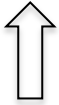
# The Gospel of Matthew

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

## LESSON THIRTY-TWO

MATTHEW 27:57-28:20

### Day 1



*Father, as I read your word today, help my heart to rejoice and delight in Jesus my Savior!*

- Read chapter 27:57-28:20
- In this chapter we come to the apex of salvation history. It is what all of history has been building toward and after this nothing will be the same.
- What is one truth in today's passage that moves your heart to praise, thanksgiving, confession, action or love for God?

### Day 2- Matthew 27:57-61

1. What two things in verse 57 are noteworthy about Joseph of Arimathea?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was Joseph's request to Pilate in verse 58?

Digging Deeper: Who helped Joseph, and what do we learn about these two men according to the verses below?

*Luke 23:50-51 Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, [Sanhedrin- the Jewish high court] a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.*

*John 19:38-39 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy five pounds in weight.*

*John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.*

Scholar's Note: "It was common for the Romans to refuse burial to a crucified person, allowing his body to rot on the cross or to lie exposed as a warning to others. Because of Jewish sensitivities (Deut 21:23) they would bury them, but in a mass grave (probably the fate of the two criminals crucified with Jesus). There would be no dignity or honor."<sup>1</sup>

For Discussion: What do you think of Joseph of Arimathea?

3. Describe Joseph's actions in verses 59-60.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What details in this portion of Scripture testify to the fact that Jesus was certainly dead?

### **Day 3- Matthew 27:62-66**

5. What are the religious leaders worried about in verses 63-64?

-Is there anything surprising to you in these verses? If so, what?

6. What measures were put in place to make sure the tomb was secure according to verses 65-66?

Picture and Ponder: "...unwittingly [the religious leaders and Pilate] were providing the most complete evidence of the truth of Christ's coming resurrection. They were actually making it impossible to prove that there was any deception or imposition. Their seal, their guard, and their precautions were all to become witnesses, in a few hours, that Christ had risen...Their own devices became instruments to show forth God's glory."<sup>2</sup>



*Thank you God that nothing is outside your rule! You use even rebels against you to serve your purposes. Help me to remember this when it seems like evil is winning in this world.*

#### **Day 4- Matthew 28:1-10**

7. What seemed to be the cause of the earthquake according to verse 2?
8. What witnesses were present at the tomb and witnessed these things according to verse 1, 4 and 5?

-What were their reactions?

9. Why had the angel rolled back the stone according to verse 6?

-What gentle rebuke did the angel give the women in verse 6?

For Discussion: The religious leaders were afraid of Jesus' disciples taking his body and saying he had risen from the dead; Jesus' followers were afraid of Jesus' dying. What did focusing on their fears lead to for each group? What can you learn from this?

10. What specifics are the women to tell the disciples according to verse 7?

Scholar's Note: "[Documenting that women were the first eyewitnesses] is certainly one of the proofs for the historicity of the resurrection; no one would ever make up a story with women as the official witnesses, since women were not allowed to be witnesses in a legal sense."<sup>3</sup>

11. In verse 8 it says that the women were feeling fear and great joy. Why do you think they felt both of these things?

12. What was the women's response to Jesus when he met them on their way to tell the disciples according to verse 9?



Praise God! It was impossible for death to keep its hold on Jesus! (Acts 2:24)



Pause for a moment and join in the worship of Jesus, the Lamb:

*Revelation 5:9, 11-13 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"...Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I hear every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"*

13. What does Jesus call his disciples in verse 10?

-What does this show us about Jesus?



How gracious and forgiving Jesus is. He doesn't disown us when we fail him. And how loving and kind to let the women, who were the last to leave him at the cross, be the first to see him when he rose. At a time when women had little value and were considered unreliable witnesses, they were the first to testify to the truth of the resurrection. They had an incredible story to tell to the disciples; they had seen the empty tomb, but Jesus also gave them the assurance of his own dear presence!

- ❖ What impact does it make on you that women were the first witnesses to the greatest event in history?
- ❖ Jesus told the women not to be afraid. How does this portion of Scripture help us not to be afraid?
- ❖ In light of all that transpired with the disciples on the night of Jesus' arrest and at his crucifixion, how does Jesus calling them brothers urge us to love and trust Jesus?



Thank you Jesus that you do not hold our sins against us. You pity our weakness and sin-you don't despise us because of them. Thank you for dying for us and rising again so that you could call us your brothers and sisters!

### **Day 5- Matthew 28:11-20**

14. Put in your own words what the guards would have told the chief priests.

15. What measures did the chief priests take to falsify the soldier's report in verses 11-15?

-What was the outcome of this according to verse 15?

- Look back to verse 27:42. What did the chief priests say would make them believe?

-What does this teach us about belief?

For Discussion: What ways can you guard yourself against the lies/false teaching being spread within Christianity today?

16. Now the disciples meet Jesus on the mountain in Galilee. What is their response to the risen Jesus according to verse 17?

For Discussion: The word that is translated as “doubt” can also be translated as “hesitate” and does not really connote unbelief.<sup>4</sup> Do you think worship and doubt or hesitation can live together in the same heart? If so, how?

17. How far does Jesus’ authority as the risen Savior and King extend according to verse 18?

-What are the implications of this for the world? For you?

18. Who are Jesus’ followers to make disciples of according to verse 19?

-What is entailed in making a disciple (or becoming one) according to verses 19 and 20?

-Why are these two things crucial?

19. What amazing promise does Jesus give us in verse 20?

Picture and Ponder: “It is still the bounden duty of every disciple of Christ to do all he can in person, and by prayer, to make others acquainted with Jesus. Where is our faith if we neglect this duty? Where is our charity? It may well be questioned whether a man

knows the value of the gospel himself if he does not desire to make it known to all the world.”<sup>5</sup>



These last words of Jesus to his followers sum up so many of the themes Matthew has emphasized– the authority of Jesus, the mission of the kingdom, obeying Jesus’ commands, and finally, Immanuel, God with us. Because of this great commission, we came to know Jesus. The lies that the religious leaders spread were conquered by the glorious truth of the risen Jesus shared with all the nations.

- ❖ Jesus told his followers to make disciples. What is the difference between evangelizing and discipling?
  
- ❖ How does the great commission (28:18-20) relate to the great commandment (22:37-40)?
  
- ❖ How does Jesus’ promise to be with you always, help you carry out this responsibility?
  
- ❖ Are you obeying Jesus’ command to go and make disciples? Spend time in prayer, pleading with God to give you a heart that delights to obey this command.



As we close out this marvelous gospel, spend some time soaking in these verses from Ephesians in light of this last spectacular chapter in Matthew.

*Ephesians 1:19-23 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else– not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself. (NLT)*

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here. How will this truth impact the way you think and act?



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- <sup>1</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament
- <sup>2</sup> Ryle, J. C.. Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Matthew [Updated Edition]: A Commentary (p. 328). Aneko Press. Kindle Edition.
- <sup>3</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 28467-28469). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.
- <sup>4</sup> Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Location 28737). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.
- <sup>5</sup> Ryle, J. C.. Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Matthew [Updated Edition]: A Commentary (pp. 334-335). Aneko Press. Kindle Edition.

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