

FPFWC Christian Development



Liberating Gospels

April 2022

Spring Quarter

April 16, 2022

Lesson #3 – Resurrection of the King

SCRIPTURE TEXT – Matthew 28:1-10

ICE BREAKERS-

1. Why is the Resurrection important to us as Christians?
2. What changes might a greater focus on the hope of resurrection make in your daily life and routines?
3. What prevents a believer from running to tell others the news of Jesus' resurrection?

Key Verse: Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.—Matthew 28:10

LESSON BACKGROUND –

Jesus' followers had hoped He was the one who would redeem Israel (Luke 24:19–21), but He had been brutally executed at the hands of the Jewish leaders and Roman officials (Matthew 26:47–27:50). Ominous events had accompanied His death. A deep darkness covered the land (27:45). The curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom, and an earthquake had split rocks and opened graves in the area (27:51–53). The manner in which Jesus died led a Roman centurion and other guards to acclaim Jesus as the Son of God (27:54).

Matthew 28:1–10 is the first of four resurrection narratives in the Gospels (see Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20). These all paint the same picture in broad strokes: Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead. The overarching truth of these three events guides each writer, even when they differ on details. And the differences in emphasis and detail among the resurrection narratives should comfort us. They indicate that the accounts are not the product of a conspiracy created by a group focused on getting their stories straight. The resurrection narratives complement one another as they affirm that witnesses saw an empty grave and the risen Savior.

Every Gospel account counters the disinformation and lies of the chief priests and Pharisees that resulted after Jesus' resurrection. Many Jews anticipated that God would inaugurate His kingdom in its fullness at the end of history. At that time, the righteous would be raised bodily to eternal life (Daniel 12:1–2; John 11:23–26). Because the Jewish leaders feared that Jesus' disciples would steal the body from the grave and then claim Jesus was alive, the religious leaders had convinced Pilate to authorize guards to be placed at the tomb (Matthew 27:62–66).

LESSON COMMENTARY

The Angel Announced the Resurrection (28:1–8)

28:1–8. After the Sabbath (v. 1) was early Sunday morning. For “three days and three nights,” see the comments on 12:38–42. Matthew did not explain why **Mary Magdalene** and **Mary** came to the tomb, but it was probably to anoint Jesus’ body further (Mk 16:1), augmenting what Joseph did (Jn 19:39–40). It is not clear if the women felt the **earthquake** (v. 2), but the narrative seems to indicate that they were close by when the angel arrived and the soldiers **became like dead men** (vv. 3–5), implying that the women did feel it. An empty tomb may have meant several things, so the angel explained the reason for the missing body: **He has risen, just as He said. Galilee** was considered the “last stop” in Israel before entering Gentile lands (Is 9:1; Mt 4:15). It is significant that Jesus would give the Great Commission, targeting “all the nations,” to His disciples there. For the best harmonization of all the resurrection appearances of Jesus, see Murray J. Harris, *Raised Immortal: Resurrection and Immortality in the New Testament*, (n.p.: Marshall Morgan & Scott, 1983), 69–71.

Jesus Announced the Resurrection (28:9–10)

28:9–10. When the women encountered Jesus, they **took hold of His feet**, indicating, among other things, that Jesus was raised bodily and was no ghost. **My brethren** (v. 10) probably encompassed more than the eleven remaining disciples, and may accommodate those who had doubts in v. 17.

LESSON NUGGET –

Because Jesus’ followers forgot His resurrection promise, they were sorrowing instead of rejoicing. We must always remember, the Lord always keeps His promises, no matter how dark the day may be. Also, when the women ran to share the message, they met the Lord. You always meet Him in the path of obedience. The Shepherd goes before the sheep and prepares the way for them. He always has everything under control. Trust Him!

Sources: Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, and The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary