

The Resurrection of Jesus

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

Resurrection Day / Jesus' Resurrection / Matthew 28:1-10

In Matthew 28:1-10, the Resurrection of Christ produces terror for His enemies but joy and worship for His followers.

Pre-sermon Comments

1 John 1:9 LSB

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 27:45-46 LSB

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

Matthew 26:56 LSB

⁵⁶ "But all this has taken place in order that the Scriptures of the prophets would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

John 19:26-27 LSB

²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his *home*.

Matthew 27:55-61 LSB

⁵⁵ And many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee while ministering to Him. ⁵⁶ Among them was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. ⁵⁷ Now when it was evening, there came a rich man from

Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given *to him*.⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave.

Matthew 26:26–29 LSB

²⁶ Now while they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it*. And giving *it*” to the disciples, He said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”²⁷ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you;²⁸ for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.²⁹”^Fther’s “But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

1 Corinthians 11:23–24 LSB

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was being betrayed took bread,²⁴” and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:25 LSB

²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

1 Corinthians 11:26 LSB

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

Sermon Text

Matthew 28:1–10 LSB

¹ Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.² And behold,

there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards quaked from fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵ And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷ "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." ⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and report to My brothers to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Introduction

The Resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, and everything that we are and have and hope to be is predicated on its reality. There would be no Christianity if there were no resurrection. ~ John MacArthur

Job 19:25-26 LSB

²⁵ "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will rise up over the dust of *this world*. ²⁶ "Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall behold God,

Acts 2:24 LSB

²⁴ "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

1 Corinthians 15:14 LSB

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

1 Corinthians 15:17 LSB

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of the Resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed. ~ John Stott

Matthew 28:13 LSB

¹³ and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 28:1-10](#), the Resurrection of Christ produces terror for His enemies but joy and worship for His followers. In this account, we will see five responses to the empty tomb:

- The Women's Loving Devotion ([Matthew 28:1](#))
 - The Guard's Paralyzing Fear ([Matthew 28:2-4](#))
 - **The Angel's Gospel Comfort ([Matthew 28:5-7](#))**
 - The Women's Reverent Fear and Great Joy ([Matthew 28:8](#))
- The Women's Heartfelt Worship ([Matthew 28:9-10](#))

The Women's Loving Devotion ([Matthew 28:1](#))

Matthew 28:1 LSB

¹ Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.

Luke 8:1-3 LSB

¹ And it happened that soon afterward He was going around from one city and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, ² and *also* some women who had been healed of

evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's manager, and Susanna, and many others who were ministering to them from their possessions.

Matthew 27:59–61 LSB

⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave.

Luke 24:1 LSB

¹ Now on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

Mark 16:1 LSB

¹ And when the Sabbath passed, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

Luke 24:10 LSB

¹⁰ Now Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James and the rest of the women with them were *there*; they were telling these things to the apostles.

The Guard's Paralyzing Fear ([Matthew 28:2-4](#))

Matthew 28:2 LSB

² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.

Matthew 27:50–51 LSB

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.⁵¹ And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Exodus 19:18 LSB

¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because Yahweh descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently.

1 Kings 19:11 LSB

¹¹” So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before Yahweh.” And behold, Yahweh was passing by! And a great and strong wind was tearing up the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before Yahweh; *but* Yahweh *was* not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, *but* Yahweh *was* not in the earthquake.

John 20:26 LSB

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you."

Matthew 28:3 LSB

³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Exodus 34:29 LSB

²⁹ Now it happened when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony *were* in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

Matthew 28:4 LSB

⁴ And the guards quaked from fear of him and became like dead men.

The Angel's Gospel Comfort ([Matthew 28:5-7](#))

Matthew 28:5 LSB

⁵ And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.

John 20:1-4 LSB

¹ Now on the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone *already* taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ And the two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;

Matthew 28:6 LSB

⁶ "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

Matthew 16:21 LSB

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matthew 17:22-23 LSB

²² And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; ²³ and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

Matthew 28:7 LSB

⁷ "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

The Women's Reverent Fear and Great Joy ([Matthew 28:8](#))

Matthew 28:8 LSB

⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.

John 20:10 LSB

¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to where they were staying.

John 20:11-16 LSB

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb crying; and so, as she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you seeking?” Thinking Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher).

John 20:18 LSB

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and *that* He had said these things to her.

Mark 16:11 LSB

¹¹ And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

The Women's Heartfelt Worship ([Matthew 28:9-10](#))

Matthew 28:9 LSB

⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

Matthew 28:10 LSB

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and report to My brothers to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Christ’s resurrection is God’s ‘Amen’ to Christ’s declaration, ‘It is finished.’ ~ S. Lewis Johnson

Ephesians 2:5–6 LSB

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Romans 10:9–10 LSB

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, leading to righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, leading to salvation.

Additional Quotes

The Resurrection is a fact better attested than any event recorded in any history, whether ancient or modern. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Although we have complete salvation through his death, because we are reconciled to God by it, it is by his Resurrection, not his death, that we are said to be born to a living hope ([1 Peter 1:3](#)). ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of the Resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

The Resurrection of Christ and the fact of the empty tomb are not part of the world's complex and continuing mythologies. This is not a Santa Claus tale—it is history and it is reality. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

If men do not rise again from the dead, then we are of all men most miserable—and that is still the truth!

The promise of the Resurrection makes the difference for the man who is a believing Christian. If men are not to be raised from the dead, why not eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die! ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The Christian church is helpless and hopeless if it is stripped of the reality and historicity of the bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The Resurrection of our divine Lord from the dead is the cornerstone of Christian doctrine. Perhaps I might more accurately call it the keystone of the arch of Christianity, for if that fact could be disproved, the whole fabric of the gospel would fall to the ground. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Christ himself deliberately staked his whole claim to the credit of men upon his Resurrection. When asked for a sign he pointed to this sign as his single and sufficient credential. ~ **Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield**

The Man who died on the cross died in weakness. The Bible is plain in telling us this. But He arose in power. If we forget or deny the truth and glory of His Resurrection and the fact that He is seated at the right hand of God, we lose all the significance of the meaning of Christianity! ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Of Americans who believe in a resurrection of the dead, two-thirds believe they will not have bodies after the Resurrection. But this is self-contradictory. A nonphysical resurrection is like a sunless sun. There's no such thing. Resurrection by its very definition means that we will have bodies. If we didn't have bodies, we wouldn't be resurrected! ~ **Randy Alcorn**

The Resurrection is a fact better attested than any event recorded in any history, whether ancient or modern. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

We are not, therefore, to regard the cross as defeat and the resurrection as victory. Rather, the cross was the victory won, and the Resurrection the victory endorsed, proclaimed and demonstrated. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

The Resurrection was not created by the church; rather, the church was created by the resurrection. ~ **Darrell L. Bock**

“Christ’s resurrection is God's “Amen!” to Christ’s statement, “It is finished.” ~ S. Lewis Johnson

The resurrection of Christ is the most important article of our faith. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

There is no element and no part of the world which, being touched, as it were, with a sense of its present misery, does not intensely hope for a resurrection. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Oneness with Christ means to be identified with Christ, identified with Him in crucifixion. But we must go on to be identified with Him in resurrection as well, for beyond the cross is Resurrection and the manifestation of His Presence. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

We may positively state that nobody has made any progress in the school of Christ, unless he cheerfully looks forward towards the day of his death, and towards the day of the final Resurrection. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

The Resurrection of Christ from the dead secures for his people both new resurrection bodies and new spiritual life. ~ **Wayne Grudem**

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

[Luke 9:23](#)—*if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—*therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.*

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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Discussion Questions

What stood out to you most from the sermon about the resurrection account in [Matthew 28](#)?

Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus is described as the **central truth claim of Christianity**?

The women came to the tomb expecting to anoint Jesus' body, not expecting a resurrection. What does their devotion teach us about faithfulness during seasons of grief or confusion?

Even though they misunderstood what would happen, they still remained devoted to Jesus. What does this teach us about following Christ when we don't fully understand His plans?

In what ways can believers today demonstrate the same kind of devotion to Christ that these women showed?

The guards were trained soldiers, yet they collapsed in fear when confronted with the power of God. What does this teach us about human strength compared to divine power?

Why do you think people sometimes respond to the truth of Christ with fear, rejection, or hostility?

How does the reaction of the guards contrast with the response of the women?

The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid." Why is this message of comfort significant in the context of the resurrection?

The angel invited the women to **"come, see the place where He was lying."** Why is the empty tomb important to the Christian faith?

Jesus had predicted His resurrection multiple times, yet the disciples still struggled to believe. What does this teach us about human weakness and God's patience?

The sermon emphasized that **God meets weak faith with greater revelation.** When have you experienced God strengthening your faith during a time of doubt or confusion?

Matthew says the women left the tomb with **"fear and great joy."** Why do you think those two emotions appeared together?

What is the difference between the guards' fear and the women's fear?

How should the resurrection of Christ produce both reverence and joy in the lives of believers today?

When the women saw Jesus, they **fell at His feet and worshiped Him**. Why is worship the appropriate response to the risen Christ?

The sermon pointed out that angels and apostles refuse worship, but Jesus accepts it. What does this reveal about who Jesus is?

How does the resurrection confirm Jesus' victory over **sin, Satan, and death**?

The sermon emphasized that the resurrection forces every person to respond. What are the different ways people respond to the reality of the resurrection today?

How has the truth that **Christ is risen and reigning now** impacted your faith personally?