

LESSON TEN**JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD**

MATTHEW 28:1-10

1. **Read and re-read the passage.** Pray as you read this passage of Scripture. What is going on? Who are the characters in this miracle of Jesus? Over what timeframe does the resurrection of Jesus occur? The account of Jesus' resurrection is also found in Mark 16:1-13, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-18. Each Gospel author tells the same story from his perspective. Read each as you have the time and note the differences. Consider how the differences do not diminish the truth of the resurrection of Christ but rather help to authenticate it.

2. **What else is going on?**
 - a. **Read Matthew 27:45-66.** How does Jesus die?

 - b. Who are the women looking on?

 - c. Who buries Jesus and how?

 - d. Who watches this process?

 - e. How do the chief priests and the Pharisees collaborate with Pilate to make sure the tomb is secure?

 - f. On what claim of Jesus are they basing these actions?

3. Describe the scene as Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" come upon Jesus' tomb.
 - a. What do they expect to find?

 - b. What is the reaction of the guards to the Angel of the Lord?

c. What is the reaction of the women to him?

4. In Matthew 28:5, the Angel of the Lord speaks to the women.

a. What are some of the ways his words comfort and instruct them?

b. The Angel of the Lord leads them into the tomb and says, "Come, see." How would this have helped their understanding of this miracle?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

Eyewitness accounts to the life and ministry of Jesus were the way the Gospel, the Good News of Christ, spread so quickly after Jesus' resurrection. Today, how does Jesus ask us to "come, see" the truth of the Gospel? Share with your group how the Lord has asked you to "come, see" the evidence that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.

5. What is the next instruction the Angel of the Lord gives to the women (Matthew 28:7)?

a. How do they react when they had the surprise of meeting Jesus on the way to tell the disciples He had risen from the dead?

b. What is Jesus' directive to them?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

Does the truth that Jesus has risen from the dead compel you to go and tell others? What opportunities are you praying about now to share the good news that Jesus Christ has risen?

6. The guards hurry off in the opposite direction to tell the chief priests what has happened.

a. What are they afraid of?

b. What story are the guards to go and tell others?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

The greatest story the world has ever heard is that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. How do you personally know that it is true, and how has it changed your life?

EXPLORE MORE:

- A.** Not even the shocking evidence of an empty tomb could be the confirmation for the women that Jesus had been raised from the dead. John's Gospel, for example, records Mary Magdalene's immediate assumption that someone had taken the body and hidden it. In Matthew 28:5-6, the angel explicitly shows the women that Jesus was no longer there. But what was he implicitly reminding the women which would lead them to believe in Jesus' resurrection?
- B. Look back at Matthew 26:75.** What is it in both of these examples that must be the foundational criteria for our response to perplexing, difficult situations? What might it look like to apply this criteria to every bit of news feed, social media threads, false gospels, etc. that we encounter this week?
- C. Read Romans 6:5-14** to see the biblical interpretation of what the resurrection of Jesus Christ accomplished for His people. What does Paul say is now true of the Christian life because of the resurrection, and how does this empower and challenge you in your daily living, your worship, communion with other Christians, your vocation, and your witness to the Gospel?