
Sermon Outline

HE HAS RISEN! (MATTHEW 28:1-9)

I. The One Great Fear

Hebrews 2:15: “and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

II. More than Christianity’s Founder

- A. For many people, Jesus Christ was simply a wise sage who founded this religion called Christianity.
- B. The reason there is even a Christianity is because the earliest Christians believed that Jesus wasn’t just a great teacher. He was the life-giving God in human flesh.

III. A Ransom for Many (Mark 10:45)

- A. In Mark 10:45, Jesus summarized his life mission in this way: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- B. Jesus saw his death as a kind of payment for others. This payment had to do with sin and a debt to justice.
- C. According to the Scriptures, separation/estrangement from God is the punishment that is due to our rebellion against God. Physical death is the external manifestation of this punishment.
- D. For Jesus to “give his life as a ransom for many” is for him to pay for the sins of many so that they might be reconciled to God.
- E. In John 1:29, John the Baptist calls Jesus, “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

IV. The Dawn of a New Morning (Matthew 28:1)

- A. The resurrection was understood by the earliest disciples to mean that God has accepted the payment that was made by Jesus—and that God now stands ready to receive and welcome home rebels and sinners of every strip and of every shade.
- B. The account of the resurrection begins in this way: “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb” (v 1; cf. Lk 24:1).

- C. “there was a great earthquake” due to the arrival of a heavenly being, an angel of the Lord (v 2).
- D. By the sheer brightness of his appearance, which “was like lightning,” the angel caused the guards to tremble and become “like dead men” (v 2).
—While the guards represented an earthly emperor, the angel represented an otherworldly realm, the rule of God.

V. “He Is not Here” (Matthew 28:5-7)

- A. By the time the two Marys arrive at the tomb, they must have been shocked to see the chaos in front of them.
 1. There were bodies of soldiers lying on the ground.
 2. The tomb was open.
- B. The angel says to them: “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said....”
- C. To help them be more assured of this, the angel asks the women to see the spot on which Jesus’ body was placed. “Come, see the place where he lay,” he says.
- D. Once the women are truly satisfied that Jesus was no longer there, the angel had some instructions for them: “Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you” (v 7).

VI. The Women Encounter Jesus (Matthew 28:8-9)

- A. “So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples” (v 8).
- B. They encounter the resurrected Jesus. Verse 9: “And behold, Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.”
- C. The fact that they worshiped Jesus indicates that they now realize beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is *the* Lord himself, the Holy One whose name is so weighty that Jews think it best left unspoken.

VII. New Creation

- A. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just the start of a new religion. It’s the start of a new era, a new age, a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).
 1. The resurrection had dealt the fatal blow to death itself.
 2. From this point onward, death will lose its power, its grip over the human imagination.
 3. The day will surely come when death is completely fractured. And on that day, the dead will rise and live forever.

- B. What does the resurrection demonstrate?
1. It demonstrates that God is satisfied with the payment made by Christ's sacrifice.
 2. Jesus our Lord "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Rom 4:25).
 3. The resurrection of Jesus into undying life is God's pardon for all who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus.
- C. The resurrection of Jesus begins a new age, where men and women do not have to live in crippling fear of death.
—Because Jesus is risen, we can live in bold, courageous, and audacious new ways.
- D. First Corinthians 15:20-23: "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ."

VIII. Follow the Life

All this talk about resurrection seems pretty amazing. Dead men don't come back to life. Even if they did in rare instances, they die again. But not so with Jesus. He came back to life—*never* to die again (Rev 1:18). That's the difference. Also, the way of life that comes from believing all this seems rather impossible. But the resurrected Lord says to us today, "Come, follow me." Let us heed his call. He is risen!