

“And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted.” (Matthew 28:17)

I. Resurrection Truths

- a. Matthew does not give exhaustive evidence for the resurrection, but he does give us a handle on six arguments for the truth of the resurrection.
- b. The witness of the women is important. (28:1-10) (Discussed in previous outline)
- c. The empty tomb. (v.2-6). Who would do it anyway? His enemies had Jesus where they wanted Him, so they thought.
 1. Jesus’s disciples and friends were so discouraged, it would have never entered their minds to perpetuate a fraud. How could they overpower the guards and no one know about it?
- d. The resurrection appearances. (vv. 9, 16-20; 1 Cor 15:1-8) The resurrection appearances in all their variety are very strong evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.
- e. The transformed lives. (vv. 8-9;17) The transformation of Jesus’ followers is one of the wonders in the Christian claim for the resurrection.
 1. Those who put their trust in the risen Christ do experience great change in their lives.
 2. James and John, became apostles of love. Peter, became the rock and witness the early church was built on. Saul became Paul, the apostle sent to the Gentiles.
 3. *Your* transformation demonstrates His resurrection power.
- f. The fulfilled prophecies. (v.6) Three times in the Gospel account Jesus had predicted that he would rise again on the third day. This chapter shows the fulfilment of that prophecy.
- g. World mission (28:18–20) What started the Great Commission? Nothing other than the resurrection. It was resurrection faith that launched the church on its mission.
- h. The Jews failed to believe and perpetuated a rumor still alive today that Jesus’s body was stolen by His disciples.
 1. The majority of the Jewish faith based their rejection of Jesus’s and the Gospel on this rumor, which is not backed by any evidence.
- i. Does the resurrection story matter? Absolutely, there would be no *Good News* to proclaim if Jesus had not been resurrected. His death and burial are all part of the resurrection story.

II. End of One Mission, Marks the Beginning of Another

- a. This book ends on a *mountain*, just as it had begun on a mountain (sermon, transfiguration).
- b. It is the end of the earthly story of Jesus. It is end of the training of the twelve.
- c. Although Jesus will not physically be present, they will operate under His authority. (vv.18-19)
- d. Jesus empowered His disciples and delegated His authority to them for mission completion.
- e. Their role was to become evangelists and teachers. Everyone was given the directive, and no one was excluded.
- f. Without His presence and empowering they could never even contemplate world mission.

III. Thoughts to Consider

- a. Consider this: Most of the disciples were uneducated with no social standing. They did not look or dress like scholars. They went with physical limitations but in unlimited power.
- b. The mission must be received in faith and carried out by faith.
- c. Jesus wants to use our physical limitation so that His unlimited power can bring Him the most glory.
- d. What limitations do Christians use to justify their inability to do the Great Commission?