

MATTHEW 28:1-20

PRAY: Praising Jesus for His resurrection, thanking Him for His glory and our hope.

REST: Make a list of anything that distracts you during this season of remembering Jesus' death and victory, and set those things aside as you study His Word.

READ: Through the section once. Try to put aside any familiarity with the story and read it again, taking in the miracle of these events. Read through it again, and look at each portion evaluating why Matthew included the details he did, considering the book as a whole (take some extra time to read through the accounts in the other Gospels, if you want to compare or create a fuller picture: Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18). Examine, also, the connection between Jesus' resurrection and His final instruction to His disciples.

Consider & Respond to these questions:

How do we see Jesus more clearly through this section?

What direction does this passage give for disciples?

How does this change the way you view the world?

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QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY

Reflecting on this Sunday's teaching, respond to these questions:

Many of us operate under the authority of our earthly desires rather than the desires of Jesus. What earthly desires do you find constantly over-powering the desires of Jesus in your life?

Jesus called us to make disciples (students of His teachings and citizens of His Kingdom). In order to make disciples, we must first be disciples. What is the difference between being labeled a Christian and being a disciple of Jesus?

The reason we will have relationship with Jesus eternally is because it is a continuation of our current relationship with Him. How do you pursue a relationship with Jesus now?

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

We become so familiar with the story of Jesus' death and resurrection that it is easy to forget how amazing and miraculous it is. We can forget how incredible it must have seemed to His disciples, even though He had told them this would happen numerous times. But when we forget to marvel at Jesus' resurrection, it is easy to forget to be excited, both at who God is, that He can accomplish such a thing, and at what this means for us. Our salvation may come from Jesus' sacrifice, but our hope is from His resurrection and ascension—we, too, can live again in Him, having died to sin. And we can have confidence that He is seated next to the Father, interceding for us, after having lived with us and given His life for us. Jesus is alive! Let us marvel in the magnitude of that and not forget that our lives are a testimony to and celebration of that fact! His resurrection ought to prompt obedience in us, as we follow the Spirit's leading, making disciples as we go.

Death Conquered/Resurrection: Isaiah 25:6-9; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-12; John 6:40, 11:25-44, 20:1-18; Romans 8:10-25; 1 Corinthians 15; Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 3:7-11; Colossians 2:8-15; Revelation 21:3-4

God's Power: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Job 26; Psalm 93, 150; Proverbs 30:4-5; Isaiah 45:5-8; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37; Ephesians 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 1:7

Discipleship: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Isaiah 1:16-19, 55; Hosea 6:3; Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 16:24-27; Luke 14:25-35; John 8:31-36, 12:23-26; 15:1-17; Acts 9:10-22, 17:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:22-31; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Ephesians 5, 6:10-20; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; 1 Peter 2:19-25;

As you read, some questions to think about and respond to are:

What does it look like to live in light of Jesus' resurrection—in the power of His resurrection? How can that become an increasingly greater reality in your life? How can you encourage others with this, both those who know Jesus and those who do not?

What does it mean to make disciples? How can you engage in this?

TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 28:18-20
