

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Matthew 28:1-15

NOTE: This week's lesson has more questions than usual. Many of the questions call for simple observation answers, but the "Putting It Together" section will require more thoughtful consideration. Please plan sufficient time to carefully think through the lesson. Due to the structure of this week's passage, we have not divided the questions into the typical 3-day format. Rather, we have structured the questions in four categories to help you think through the text.

❖ Setting the Stage

Read Matthew 28:1-15.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined; imperatives are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

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

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

⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled
and became like dead men.

⁵But the angel said to the women,
"Do not be afraid,
for I know that
you seek Jesus who was crucified.

⁶He is not here,
for he has risen,
as he said.

Come,
see the place where he lay.

⁷Then 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."

⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy,
and ran to tell his disciples.

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⁹And behold,
Jesus met them
and said,
“Greetings!”
And they came up
and took hold of his feet
and worshiped him.
¹⁰Then Jesus said to them,
“Do not be afraid;
go
and tell my brothers to go to Galilee,
and there they will see me.”
¹¹While they were going,
behold,
some of the guard went into the city
and told the chief priests all that had taken place.
¹²And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel,
they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers
¹³and said,
“Tell people,
‘His disciples came by night
and stole him away while we were asleep.’”
¹⁴And if this comes to the governor's ears,
we will satisfy him
and keep you out of trouble.”
¹⁵So they took the money
and did as they were directed.
And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

1. This week's narrative takes place in three locations/scenes. What clue (code word) does Matthew give to introduce each scene? (Note the code word's prominent location all the way to the left in the paragraph flow.)
2. What verses make up Scene I? Scene II? Scene III? List the verse numbers beside the corresponding scene sections below.

❖ Scene I Verses: _____

3. Whose tomb did the women go to see?
4. Why was there an earthquake? What did it prove?

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5. What was the response of the guards?
6. Inferring from verse 5, what was the women's initial reaction to the angel?
7. What did the angel say to the women?
8. According to verse 6, why should it not have been a surprise that the tomb was empty?
9. Where did the angel tell the women to go first, and what were they supposed to see?
10. Where did the angel next tell the women to go? What were they supposed to tell the disciples, and what did he promise they would all see when they went to Galilee?
11. What did the angel say to warn them against unbelief?
12. How had the women's reaction changed by verse 8?
13. What did the women do in response to the angel's words?

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❖ Scene II Verses: _____

14. What was the women's reaction when they saw Jesus Himself?
15. What three things did Jesus tell them to do?
16. What promise did Jesus make?
17. What does the fact that the women "took hold of his feet" tell us about His resurrection?
18. How did Jesus refer to His disciples in verse 10?
19. Why is this significant in light of the happenings in chapters 26 and 27?

❖ Scene III Verses: _____

20. What did the guards do after their experience at the tomb?
21. What did the religious leaders tell the guards to do?
22. How did the guards respond?

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❖ Putting It Together

Read Matthew 28:1-15 again.

23. What two versions of the resurrection were being told by those who saw the empty tomb?

24. How should the guards and religious leaders have responded to “all that had taken place” at the tomb? (Note that according to Matthew 27:63, Jesus’ statement that He would rise from the dead was known and clearly understood.)

25. Describe the similarities and differences you see in the responses of the women and the guards in this week’s passage. (Be sure to note how fear played in for each of them.)

26. Though people today do not have the exact same kind of encounters with the risen Christ as the women and the guards had that day, how do you see similar reactions from people today when they encounter the truth about Jesus, His death, and His resurrection?

27. How does Romans 10:9 help you understand the importance of believing the truth about Jesus’ resurrection?

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28. What do we call a person who sees something and then tells about it?

29. We are also commanded to bear witness about Christ. How does fear factor in to you being a witness for Christ? What should encourage you to not be afraid? Who do you know who needs to hear about Jesus?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would react rightly to the news of the empty tomb by worshipping Christ and bearing faithful witness to all that He has told us. Pray for the unbelievers who will be in the service on Sunday, that they will hear the truth, repent of their unbelief, and fall at the feet of the Lord Jesus in worship.