



Week 7: The Death & Resurrection the Messiah

The high point of the Christian calendar is the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. The events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday belong together at the very heart of the Christian faith. Jesus, as God's Suffering Servant, faithfully gave his life as a sin offering to make atonement for the sins of the world. Therefore, God highly exalted him and vindicated and validated Jesus as Lord of all. Amen!

Beginning the Conversation

1. Often we think of the death of Jesus as more important than his resurrection. How have you thought of the two events connected? What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection?

Good Friday: Dwelling in the Word

1. Prayerfully read through Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Digging Deeper

1. The Servant of Yahweh in the book of Isaiah culminates in him suffering and dying on behalf of all peoples. How is the suffering and dying of the servant described in Isaiah? (see Isaiah). What happens as a result of his death (see Isaiah 53:10-13 and 52:13)?
2. Isaiah 53:10 describes the servant as "an offering for sin." Read through Leviticus 5. What is the significance of the servant being understood as a sin offering?
3. The NT clearly understands Jesus' death through the lens of Isaiah's suffering servant. Read through Philippians 2:5-11 and 1Peter 2:21-25 (cf. Acts 8:26-40). How should the example of Jesus' life and death inform the way we live out our faith in the world?

Easter Sunday: Dwelling in the Word

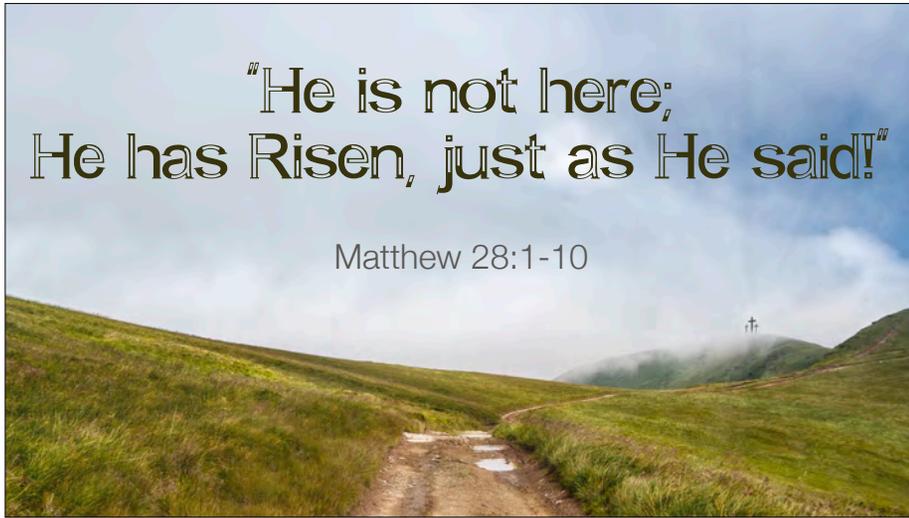
1. Prayerfully read through Matthew 28:1-10 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Digging Deeper

2. The death and resurrection of Jesus is clearly seen as a fulfilment of the purposes of God in Matthew (see 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; and 26:54-56). What does this do for your faith?
3. The role of the women (particularly "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary") as the first witnesses to Jesus' resurrection is emphasized in each of the gospels. What is the significance of this for the life and ministry of the church?
4. When Jesus appeared in the Galilee, Matthew says that "they worshiped, but some doubted" (28:17). What is the significance of this? (Note that unbelief is the opposite of belief, not doubt) How can we give space as a community for those who still have honest questions?

Living it Out

1. Paul notes that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is active in the life of Christ followers (Eph 1:19-20; 2Peter 1:3). How can you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to live out your Easter faith in practical ways in your everyday life?



According to Matthew

The Crucifixion & Death (27:33-56)
The Burial (27:57-66)

The Two Women & the Empty Tomb (28:1-8)
The Two Women & the Risen Jesus (28:9-10)

- The Misinformation Campaign (28:11-15)

The Risen Jesus commissions his Disciples (28:16-20)

According to Matthew

He is not here!

He has Risen!

Just as He said!

"Just as He said"

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus predicted his own suffering, death, and resurrection three times prior to the events of Holy Week:

- First Prediction: 16:21-23
- Second Prediction: 17:22-23
- Third Prediction: 20:17-19



“Just as He said”

Matthew also presents Jesus’ death and resurrection as a fulfilment of the Old Testament Scriptures.

- “But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?... But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled” (26:54, 56).

All of this happened according to God’s purposes to redeem his fallen creation in Jesus his Messiah.



“He is not here!”

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay” (28:5-6).

- The women find the Tomb empty.
- The Angel announces “He has risen from the dead!”
- He then tells them to go tell the other disciples.



“He is not here!”

The women as eyewitnesses:

- They were present at Jesus’ crucifixion (27:55-56).
- They saw Jesus’ body laid in the tomb (27:61).
- They found the tomb empty (28:1-8).



“He has Risen!”

The women were also the first to encounter the risen Jesus (28:9-10).

- They fell at his feet and worshiped him (28:9).
- And then Jesus commissions them to go and tell the other “brothers and sisters” (28:10).



“He has Risen!”

“The empty tomb, for all of its impressiveness and importance, is not sufficient evidence in itself for the resurrection of Jesus. What alone can be decisive is reliable eyewitness testimony that Jesus had been raised from the dead. The women, the two Marys, are not only given the first responsibility to convey the message that Jesus had risen from the dead but are also given the privilege of being the first to see the risen Jesus himself. *And when they encounter him, they respond with complete and unreserved worship*” (Donald Hagner, *Matthew 14–28*, 874).



Jesus' Resurrection...

validates Him as the One True Lord!

- “He has Risen!” so Jesus is **King Messiah!**
- “He has Risen!” so Jesus is **the Son of Man!**
- “He has Risen!” so Jesus is **the Son of God!**
- “He has Risen!” so Jesus is **our Lord & Saviour!**



Jesus' Resurrection...

is the fulfilment of Israel's story!

- Jesus is the true descendant of Abraham.
- Jesus establishes the New Covenant in his blood.
- Jesus inaugurates of the Kingdom of God.
- The resurrection anticipates the renewal of all things.



Jesus' Resurrection...

gives hope to our personal stories!

- Our past can be forgiven.
- Our future is secure.
- Our present can be made meaningful as we follow Christ together.



Invitation

Consider the response of the women when they encountered the crucified and risen Jesus:

- “They clasped his feet and worshiped him” (28:9).
- But later in Galilee, when Jesus appeared to his disciples, Matthew also notes that while they worshiped him, “some doubted” (28:17).



Invitation

“They clasped his feet and
worshiped him”

“He is Risen!”