

### Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 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?

### Beginning the Conversation

1. The sermon describes the two Marys as “First Responders” to the good news. Have you ever been the first person to hear or share significant news? How did it feel to carry that message?

### Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. In Matthew 28:1, Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” go to the tomb at dawn.
  - a. These women were present at the crucifixion and burial while the male disciples had deserted Jesus. Why do you think Matthew emphasizes their presence and role as the first witnesses?
  - b. Unlike other accounts, Matthew says they went simply to “look at the tomb.” The sermon suggests they may have been remembering Jesus’ previous predictions. How does “looking” with expectation differ from visiting a grave to mourn?
2. The angel’s message in verses 5-7 is described as “the Gospel message in a nutshell.”
  - a. Why is the resurrection absolutely central to the Gospel? What would be the consequences for the Christian faith if Jesus had not been raised? (See 1 Corinthians 15:12-19).
  - b. The angel tells the women that Jesus is “going ahead of you into Galilee.” Why might Galilee represent a new beginning or a fresh start for the disciples who had failed him?
3. In verses 9-10, the women encounter the risen Jesus personally.
  - a. Jesus uses a very common, everyday greeting (like “hello” or “hi”). What does this “nonchalance” suggest about the nature of his resurrection and his ongoing relationship with his followers?
  - b. Jesus commissions the women to tell “my brothers” to go to Galilee. Why is his use of the term “brothers” significant after they had abandoned him?
4. The sermon states that the resurrection validates Jesus as the Messiah and the one true Lord. How does the reality of the empty tomb change how we view Jesus’ teachings and authority today?
5. How do you evaluate the reactions of the different “characters” in this passage? The disciples? The Galilean crowds? The Jerusalem crowds? The religious authorities? The “blind and the lame”? The children? Where do you honestly place yourself?

### Living it Out

1. The women’s immediate response to meeting Jesus was to clasp his feet and worship him. In what practical ways can you offer him your worship this week?
2. Easter is described as a season for “fresh starts.” Is there an area of your life where you need a new beginning? How does the hope of the resurrection empower you to take that first step?
3. Who is someone in your life who needs to hear the good news of a fresh start this week? How can you, like the women in the passage, be a witness to them?




## First Responders & Resurrection Witnesses (Matthew 28:1-10)



April 5, 2026  
Easter Sunday  
Pastor Tyler Williams  
Greenfield Community Church

### First to the Tomb



"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb" (28:1).

- Mary Magdalene (a prominent Galilean follower) and "the other Mary" (the mother of James and Joseph, identified in 27:56).
- Not only were these two women first to the empty tomb, they were also present at Jesus' crucifixion (27:55-56) and burial (27:61), while the male disciples deserted him at his arrest (26:56).

### First to Hear the Gospel



"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 Gospel message in a nutshell is found in the Angel's statement: "He is not here; **he has risen**, just as he said!"
- Jesus' resurrection is **absolutely central** to the Gospel (see 1Corinthians 15:12-19).

## First to be Sent



"Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you" (28:7).

- Tell the disciples that Jesus "has risen from the dead"; and
- To go to Galilee, where they will see him for themselves — and have a new beginning, a fresh start (28:16-20).

## First to Worship



"Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him" (28:9).

- Jesus uses the normal everyday greeting — like our "hi" or "hello."
- The women's first response is to worship him!

## First to be Commissioned



"Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me'" (28:10).

- Jesus comforts the women and personally commissions them.
- And sends them to tell "my brothers" — Jesus uses a term of intimacy even though they had abandoned him, which again expresses a hope for restoration — a fresh start, a new beginning.

## The Gospel of the Kingdom



The Gospel message entrusted to the two women that first Easter morning is that "Jesus has been raised from the dead!"

- This is a key element of the message preached by the earliest Christian church and the hallmark of authentic Christian proclamation down to the present day (cf. 1Corinthians 15:3-4).

## The Gospel of the Kingdom



Jesus' resurrection also has significance for our understanding of who Jesus is.

- Jesus' death and his resurrection to new life validates Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God, and one true Lord!

## Invitation



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

“They clasped his feet and worshiped him” (28:9).