



Easter Sunday 2020

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – Matthew 27:57-28:20

Summary:

He is Risen! Our text from Matthew 27 and 28 describes the miraculous resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ – raised from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures and against the expectations of almost everyone, his friends and enemies alike! In this text, Matthew shows how the risen Christ revealed himself and proved that he was, indeed, the Messiah – God’s Anointed One!

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week’s message?
2. Take a look at Isaiah 53:9 – What significance does Joseph’s action (Matt 27:57-60) have in light of this Old Testament prophecy?
3. Why do you think Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” (there is some debate concerning her identity – perhaps she is Jesus’ mother Mary, or another woman named Mary) kept watch at the tomb, when Jesus’ disciples seem to have abandoned hope?
4. Why do you think the Pharisees felt that they needed to ‘hedge their bets’ with regard to Jesus’ body (27:62-66)? Were they really worried about Jesus’ followers stealing his body? What do you make of their actions here?

5. **Application:** Put yourself in the disciples' shoes during that dark time between Good Friday and Easter. Have you ever felt hopeless, the way they must have felt during that time? How can we resist a sense of hopelessness during dark times?

6. What elements of the text from Matthew 28:1-10 put an emphasis on the *historical reality* of Jesus' resurrection? Why do you think the text makes such a big deal of an *actual, physical* resurrection (as opposed to a spiritual raising or Jesus simply 'living on' in the hearts of his followers)?

7. **Application:** What does Jesus' resurrection mean for you, personally? Not simply in a doctrinal sense (as important as that is) – how does the risen Christ change *your* life?

8. Notice the Pharisees' behavior subsequent to the resurrection – why do you think their attitudes were unchanged, even in the face of something (for them) inexplicable regarding Jesus' body?

9. What was the response of Jesus-followers when they saw the resurrected Christ?
Application: How should each of us respond to the truth of Easter Sunday?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose Matthew had (as the author) in writing this passage?