

# How the Resurrection Can Change Your Life

## Matthew 28:1-10

*“But the angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here! For He has been resurrected, just as He said.”” - Matthew 28:5-6*

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**Main Point:** Jesus’ resurrection has the power to change your life now and in eternity

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*What is the most memorable funeral you’ve ever been to? Why?*

*When was the last time you had a “That changes everything” moment? Describe your experience.*

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Matthew just told of the crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus (27:32-61). In the time since then, the Jewish authorities had had the tomb guarded so the proof of Jesus’ death—His lifeless body—would not disappear and allow His followers to make claims about a miraculous return to life (vv. 62-66). Then early Sunday morning, with the trauma of seeing Jesus executed still fresh and raw, “Mary Magdalene and the other Mary” encountered a “violent earthquake” and the startling appearance of a dazzling angel. What this heavenly being had to say turned a funeral into a celebration that changed everything.

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**There are three ways the resurrection can change are lives:**

1) **THE RESURRECTION REMOVES FEAR.** Have a volunteer read **Matthew 28:1-5.**

What emotions and thoughts do you think might have gone through the hearts and minds of Mary and Mary?

Christians are not immune to overwhelming circumstances. What situations are likely to cause you to become like a dead person, paralyzed by fear? How do you react when you find yourself in such a situation?

How did news from the angel turn the women’s fear into joy? How can knowing of Jesus resurrection give us hope in times of hopelessness?

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2) **THE RESURRECTION ENCOURAGES INTELLECTUAL HONESTY.** Read **Matthew 28:6-8.**

Why would the angel have invited the women to “see the place where He lay”? Was there any hint that God was trying to hide anything?

What doubts have you had intellectually about Jesus resurrection? Have you searched for the truth in scripture and any other resources?

How did the women looking for themselves give them confidence in Jesus being raised from the dead? How might searching out the truth of scriptures give you confidence in Christ and the power He might display in your life?

Why would the angel have told the women to “go quickly” to Jesus’ disciples with the news of His resurrection?

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3) **THE RESURRECTION PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET JESUS.** Read **Matthew 28:9-10.**

After telling the women to investigate the tomb for themselves, what instructions did the angel give? What kind of attitude was on display as they obeyed?

Notice it says “Jesus met them.” They didn’t find him or meet him. It was doing. Do you have faith that Jesus will meet you wherever you are today? Where in your life do you need him to meet you?

What did they do once they came in contact with Jesus? What would you do if you had the opportunity to meet him today? What would you say?

**Apply It:**

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Have you taken advantage of the opportunity to meet Jesus? What circumstances in your life have brought you to his feet? How can looking back on those moments be a reminder now of his ability to change your life as he did then?

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**Pray:**

Thank you Jesus for going down to the pit for me. Thank you for facing the biggest fear imaginable in death on the cross. You gave your life for me and now you give me life through your resurrection. We worship you and adore you. You are the King of kings and Lord of lords and we are thankful you meet us in our joy and in our despair. Help us to live in your power today and every day. Amen.

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**Coming up at VillageChurch:**

**April 22nd** - BIG Tent Worship Service

**May 13th** - Mother’s Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing