

Matthew Chapter 28

Outline:

The Verification of the Resurrection: verses 1-10.

The Perjury of the Guards: 11-15.

The Great Commission: 16-20.

28:1. Now, after the Sabbath [the normal Saturday Sabbath], **as it began to dawn into the first day of the week** [Sunday: the feast of the First Fruits also a Sabbath], **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary** [the wife of Clopas, the mother of Joseph and James the Lesser] **came to see the sepulcher** [they traveled in the dark that they might be there just as it dawned].

Ὅψὲ δὲ σαββάτων, τῇ ἐπιφωσκούσῃ εἰς μίαν σαββάτων, ἦλθεν Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ ἡ ἄλλη Μαρία θεωρῆσαι τὸν τάφον.

These two ladies and others not mentioned by Matthew had traveled to the tomb at the darkest portion (just before dawn) of the night to reach the tomb at dawn. It is interesting to note that none of the Lord's disciples thought it worthwhile to come.



28:2. And behold, a great earthquake occurred [to alert people that the resurrection had occurred]! **For an angel from the Lord** [the deity of Christ] **had descended from Heaven and came and rolled back the stone** [in order that others may look in] **and sat on it** [while waiting for the ladies].

καὶ ἰδοὺ σεισμὸς ἐγένετο μέγας· ἄγγελος γὰρ κυρίου καταβὰς ἐξ οὐρανοῦ καὶ προσελθὼν ἀπεκύλισεν τὸν λίθον καὶ ἐκάθητο ἐπάνω αὐτοῦ.

Jesus in his resurrection body had already passed through the rock.

28:3. His countenance [the angel who rolled back the stone] **was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.**

ἦν δὲ ἡ εἰδέα αὐτοῦ ὡς ἀστραπὴ καὶ τὸ ἔνδυμα αὐτοῦ λευκὸν ὡς χιών.

Angels possibly are constructed out of something similar to light, but can travel much faster than the speed of light.

28:4. And the guards shook from fear of him [the angel] and became like dead [passed out].

ἀπὸ δὲ τοῦ φόβου αὐτοῦ ἐσείσθησαν οἱ τηροῦντες καὶ ἐγενήθησαν ὡς νεκροί.

28:5. And the angel answered and said to the women [Mary Magdalene, Mary, the wife of Clopas and the other women], “You yourselves, stop fearing [stop looking confounded and astonished: a normal response since they were facing something beyond their frame of reference], for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἄγγελος εἶπεν ταῖς γυναῖξιν, Μὴ φοβεῖσθε ὑμεῖς, οἶδα γὰρ ὅτι Ἰησοῦν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον ζητεῖτε·

28:6. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε, ἠγέρθη γὰρ καθὼς εἶπεν· δεῦτε ἴδετε τὸν τόπον ὅπου ἔκειτο.

28:7. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead. And, behold, He goes before you into Galilee. There you shall see Him. Lo, I have told you [I have followed my orders].”

καὶ ταχὺ πορευθεῖσαι εἶπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ ὅτι ἠγέρθη ἀπὸ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἰδοὺ προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε· ἰδοὺ εἶπον ὑμῖν.

28:8. And having departed quickly from the tomb with awe [occupied with Christ] and with great joy [sharing the happiness of God], they

[Mary Magdalene, the wife of Clopas, Joanna, and others] **ran** [in good condition] **to announce** [the resurrection] **to His disciples** [Luke 24:9].”

καὶ ἀπελθοῦσαι ταχὺ ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου μετὰ φόβου καὶ χαρᾶς μεγάλης ἔδραμον ἀπαγγεῖλαι τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ.

Putting the pieces of information together:

The first appearance of the resurrected Christ was to Mary Magdalene, John 20:1-18, “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene [along with Mary, the wife of Clopas] came early to the tomb, while it was still dark [early Sunday morning], and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. (2) So, she [Mary Magdalene is singled-out since she will be the first one to see the resurrected Jesus] ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved [John], and said to them [these two were considered the two spiritual leaders], ‘They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we [Mary Magdalene and Mary the wife of Clopas and other women] do not know where they have laid Him [his body].’ (3) So [after hearing this message from the ladies], Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. (4) The two were running together [followed by Mary Magdalene who still desired to locate the body]; and the other disciple [John] ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; (5) and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. (6). And so, Simon Peter also came, following him [John], and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there [but no angels], (7) and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. (8) So, the other disciple [John] who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed [in the resurrection; the first one to do so]. (9) For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. (10) So, the disciples [Peter and John] went away again to their own homes [but Mary Magdalene remained behind]. (11) And Mary [Magdalene] was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; (12) and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at

the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. (13) And they [the two angels] said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him [His body]. (14) When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. (15) Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away [His body away for burial]. (16) Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). (17) Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren [all the believers known to her] and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’” (18) Mary Magdalene came announcing to the disciples, “I have seen the *resurrected* Lord and that He had said these things to her.”

28:9. And behold, Jesus met them [the ladies minus Mary Magdalene; this would be His 2nd resurrection-appearance], **saying, “Hail [greetings]! And they** [Mary the wife of Clopas, Joanna etc.] **came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.”**

καὶ ἰδοὺ Ἰησοῦς ὑπήντησεν αὐταῖς λέγων, Χαίρετε. αἱ δὲ προσελθοῦσαι ἐκράτησαν αὐτοῦ τοὺς πόδας καὶ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ.

28:10. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not remained in this state of awe [don’t get so excited]; **go tell My brethren** [the eleven disciples that you have seen the resurrected Jesus and] **that they should go into Galilee, and there, they will see Me** [first these women along with Mary Magdalene reported to the disciples regarding the empty tomb; now these ladies minus Mary Magdalene are to report that they have seen the resurrected Christ and to repeat the instructions to meet the Lord in Galilee].”

τότε λέγει αὐταῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, Μὴ φοβεῖσθε· ὑπάγετε ἀπαγγείλατε τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου ἵνα ἀπέλθωσιν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, κάκει με ὄψονται.

Other passages telling this story:

Luke 24:1-12, “On the first day of the week [Sunday], very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. (2) They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, (3) but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. (4) While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men [apparently two angels who reiterated the message of the angel who had rolled back the stone] in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. (5) In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? (6) He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee, (7) saying that the Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again. (8) Then, they remembered his words. (9) When they [Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Clopas, Joanna and others] came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. (10) It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. (11) But they [a reference to “to all the others”] did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. (12) Peter, [and John and apparently Mary Magdalene followed for she still desired to locate the body] however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.”

Mark 16:1-8, “When the Sabbath was over [a reference to the Passover which occurred on Wednesday], Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices [during Thursday and Friday] so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body [This intention was never fulfilled]. (2) Very early on the first day of the week [Sunday], just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb (3) and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" (4) But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. (5) As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side [apparently the angel who

had rolled away the stone], and they were alarmed. (6) "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. (7) But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' " (8) Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid."

The Perjury of the Guard: verses 11-15.

28:11. And as they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city [since the sepulchre was outside of the city] **and declared all the things that were done to the chief priests** [They explained truthfully all which had happened to the chief priests].

Πορευομένων δὲ αὐτῶν ἰδοὺ τινες τῆς κουστωδίας ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἀπήγγειλαν τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσιν ἅπαντα τὰ γενόμενα.

28:12. And [the chief priests] being assembled with the elders, and taking counsel, they gave a large sum of silver to the soldiers [At this time there was a large amount of money in the Temple-treasury and so they bribed these soldiers with a lot of money.],

καὶ συναχθέντες μετὰ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων συμβούλιόν τε λαβόντες ἀργύρια ἱκανὰ ἔδωκαν τοῖς στρατιώταις

For Roman soldiers to admit that they had fallen asleep on guard duty would take a very large sum of money since this kind of offence meant execution normally.

28:13. saying, "Say that His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we slept.

λέγοντες, Εἶπατε ὅτι Οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς ἐλθόντες ἔκλεψαν αὐτὸν ἡμῶν κοιμωμένων.

This statement has built in inconsistency. How can one know who did the stealing if he were asleep? However, since this story was given to those already prejudiced, it was accepted by many. If a person wants to believe a lie, he will.

28:14. And if this comes to the procurator's ears, we will persuade him and make you free from care [we will guarantee your safety].

καὶ ἐὰν ἀκουσθῇ τοῦτο ἐπὶ τοῦ ἡγεμόνος, ἡμεῖς πείσομεν αὐτὸν καὶ ὑμᾶς ἀμερίμνους ποιήσομεν.

28:15. And taking the silver, they did as they were taught [with repetition]. **And this report is commonly spread among the Jews until today.**

οἱ δὲ λαβόντες τὰ ἀργύρια ἐποίησαν ὡς ἐδιδάχθησαν. Καὶ διεφημίσθη ὁ λόγος οὗτος παρὰ Ἰουδαίοις μέχρι τῆς σήμερον [ἡμέρας].

The Great Commission: verses 16-20.

28:16. And the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had assigned to them [before his death].

Οἱ δὲ ἑνδεκα μαθηταὶ ἐπορεύθησαν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἰς τὸ ὄρος οὗ ἐτάξατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς,

This is the tenth resurrection appearance. It was during this appearance that the Lord gave the Great Commission.

28:17. And when they saw Him, they [the eleven disciples] **worshiped Him, but some** [other Jewish people in Jerusalem believed the report of the guards] **doubted** [that Christ had been resurrected].

καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν προσεκύνησαν, οἱ δὲ ἐδίστασαν.

28:18. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority [includes many powers] is given to Me in Heaven [seated at the right hand of the Father] and on earth.

καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς λέγων, Ἐδόθη μοι πᾶσα ἐξουσία ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς.

28:19. Therefore, go [obviously to proclaim the gospel] **and teach all** [the new converts in the] **nations** [the spiritual life to orient them to God’s plan], **baptizing them** [those who would respond to the gospel in the early church] **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit** [a reference to water baptism practiced in the early church],

πορευθέντες οὖν μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, βαπτίζοντες αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος,

The Greek word ‘*matheteuo*’ means to instruct personally, make disciples (students of the Word) and to make an issue clear.

28:20. teaching [a command to communicators of the Word] **them to observe** [guard] **all things** [as taught is Scripture], **whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you** [Jesus Christ protects the communicator] **all the days until the end of the age** [of Israel]. **Amen.”**

διδάσκοντες αὐτοὺς τηρεῖν πάντα ὅσα ἐνετειλάμην ὑμῖν· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ μεθὶ ὑμῶν εἰμι πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας ἕως τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος.

The Greek word ‘*didasko*’ means to teach in a public communication system, a group of people listening to someone teach. This word emphasizes public teaching: a seminary student teaching his class, a pastor teaching his congregation.

Further amplification:

Acts 1:8, “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses [The witnesses of Christ, the prosecuting attorney in the angelic appeal trial] both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Verses 19 and 20 deal with the Great Commission. Jesus Christ has commissioned His disciples to evangelize and to teach the spiritual life not only in their local areas but also all over the world. The objective is to become witnesses as per Acts 1:8 in the Angelic Appeal Trial and to produce other witnesses. So, evangelism is not the final objective of the Great Commission, but just the first step. The final objective of the Great Commission is to produce other witnesses by bringing them to the point spiritually where they would be qualified to take Evidence Testing.

Written by Claude M. Klein (Max)
Pastor of Grace Bible Church of Corpus Christi, TX
Contact: curlymaxk@hotmail.com

Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: rbthieme.org