

A note from Kathy

If Matthew 27 was the saddest chapter in the Bible, then Matthew 28 is the most wonderful chapter in the Bible!!! Jesus' sacrifice was accepted by God the Father. This is the greatest news anyone could ever hear. Our sin debt has been paid. Salvation is a gift we can accept or reject; no one is forced either way.

Observation

1. Matthew made note of the day and the time. What day and time was it?
2. Scripture said that there was a violent earthquake when the angel rolled the stone away from the tomb. Very briefly jot down a list of events in verses 1-7. Why did the angel roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?
3. Can you imagine how these women felt as they walked to the tomb as the first rays of light were dawning? What emotions do you believe they might have experienced? In verse 8 we see the women were leaving to find the other disciples. What emotions were they experiencing?
4. While they were on their way, Jesus appeared to them. Did they recognize him?
5. Where did Jesus tell the disciples to go?
6. The chief priests and elders requested guards to be posted at the entrance of the tomb. The guards were now in a great deal of trouble. Instead of reporting to their commanding officer they went to the elders and reported the events. How did these dishonest religious leaders plan to cover up the resurrection?
7. For a Roman soldier to fall asleep at his post was punishable by death. What would make these soldiers go along with this plan?
8. Galilee is a very large area of land. How did the disciples know where to meet Jesus? Look up Matthew 26:30-32 and Matthew 28:16.
9. What did the disciples do when they saw Jesus again?

10. Once again Jesus was in Galilee teaching his disciples. What instructions did he give them?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

11. What promise did he give them?

Application

1. Describe the character of the women that came to the tomb that day. Consider the events that had so recently taken place.
2. What do you believe motivated these women to come to the tomb? What is your greatest motivation for serving Jesus? What hinders you sometimes?
3. The angel told the women five things that day. Notice what he begins with as he speaks to them. What might they have feared?
 - 1) Do not be afraid,
 - 2) He is not here,
 - 3) He has risen,
 - 4) Come and see,
 - 5) Go and spread the good news.
4. Good news is hard to keep in. How did verse 8 describe them leaving the tomb? Think of the last time you had unexpected, good news to share with someone you love. I doubt you wasted any time finding them.
5. Christ would appear several times to different people between his resurrection and his ascension, but who did he appear to first? Women were thought of as a commodity by most men of that day, but not Jesus. These women were true followers. They loved Jesus above comfort and ease. What are you sacrificing in order to serve Jesus?
6. Why do you believe Jesus wanted to meet his disciples far away from Jerusalem?

7. The guards feared for their lives when they realized Jesus was gone. They went to tell the priests first, since they were the ones so interested in Jesus' body being guarded. This should have been the proof these religious leaders needed to finally believe, but it wasn't. What did they choose to do?

Have you ever wished you could have some kind of miraculous sign so your loved one would believe? The truth is there are those who do not want to see the truth, so they are blinded by Satan. Did someone you care about come to mind? Why not stop right now and ask God to soften their heart? Only God can soften a hard heart.

8. Jesus gave one last set of instructions to his disciples. Often this is referred to as the Great Commission. Jesus commands those who are his disciples, his followers, to go and make disciples. We are to live in such a way that others can and will follow. We are to share the good news of Jesus with them. We are to baptize those who desire to make a public profession of their faith and we are to teach them God's word so that they can obey him. Does this describe you? Why not look for ways this week to share your faith with others? Try to find a person who is new in their walk of faith and help them grow.

9. Jesus' last words recorded in Matthew's gospel are, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Do these words comfort you?

Are you lonely? Are you sad? Are you depressed? Do you feel forsaken?

Are you happy about something and long to share your joy with someone? Whatever is going on, there is nothing that will help like remembering that He is with us. We are not alone.