

Message Notes

The Resurrection of the Son of God
The Cross & the Crown
Matthew 27:57-28:15
Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007

Message Outline

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3 things WITHIN Matthew's resurrection account

1. The presence of "observation", the absence of "interpretation."
2. The presence of the women, but the absence of the disciples.
3. The presence of hostile witnesses and the absence of a body.

3 things ABOUT all the resurrection accounts

1. The resurrection of Jesus differed radically from the Jewish expectations of resurrection. Why?
2. The resurrection of Jesus causes a shift from Saturday to Sunday as the day of worship. Why?
3. The resurrection of Jesus effects an otherwise inexplicable transformation in the lives of His followers. Why?

4 things that GROW OUT of the resurrection accounts

1. A New Commitment
2. A New Commission
3. A New Community
4. A New Creation

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 27:57-28:15 again. What is the response of the women in 28:8? What does that mean? What do they do when they meet Him in 28:9?
2. Why is the presence of the women significant in defending the historicity of the resurrection?
3. What other details in Matthew's account give it a "ring of truth"?
4. What is significant about the presence of hostile witnesses and their story?
5. What was the Jewish expectation of resurrection and how does the resurrection of Jesus differ?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was new and most challenging in the text/message this week and why?
2. Why and how does the resurrection of Jesus call for a new personal COMMITMENT? How do we see that in the book of Acts? How have you experienced this in your own life? How did you come to believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
3. Why and how does the resurrection of Jesus give a new Commission and direction to a person's life? What is the purpose and cause bigger than ourselves that we are drawn into? How is Acts the realization of that commission?
4. Why and how does the resurrection of Jesus throw us into a new Community? Does this mean that belief in the resurrection is more than personal? What should that community look like? What does it look like in the book of Acts?
5. Why and how does the resurrection of Jesus inaugurate a new Creation? What does this mean? Is believing in the resurrection just an escape from this earth to heaven? What does that mean for our work and place in this world?