



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Matthew 28:1-15

1Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he^a lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

11While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. (ESV)

Sermon Outline:

- I. The Proclamation of the Resurrection (1-8)
- II. The Proof of the Resurrection (9-10)
- III. The Denial of the Resurrection (11-15)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- Pastor Scott quoted Josh McDowell saying, “the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, or it is the most fantastic fact of history.” Why is it so important that we get the resurrection right? Why is it so hard for non-Christians to believe?
- The soldiers guarding the tomb were the first to see evidence of the resurrection and they froze with fear as though dead. Think about their reaction. What is the irony in their response? How do you think the soldiers were able to reason their way out of believing the truth about Jesus? Do you know people who respond to God’s glory in a similar way?
- Compare the soldiers with the women who went to see the tomb. Why were they there? What was the posture of their hearts? How did each group react to what they saw? How did the angel address them? According to the law of the times, which group would have been the credible witnesses in court? Which group corrupted the truth and which group declared it?
- Have you ever been in such a state of awe and worship of Christ as these women were when they first saw him resurrected? Think about the glory of that moment and put yourself in their place. What would that feel like? How does the resurrection inform our worship?
- Like the soldiers and religious leaders who had seen the proof and heard the teachings, many have all of the information and evidence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They would have all that they need to believe but it remains ‘foolishness’ to them (1 Cor 2:14). What does it take for someone to believe? Who is responsible for it?
- On Good Friday the disciples scattered after Jesus’ arrest and the chief among them denied even knowing Jesus three times, yet Christ says “...go and tell **my brothers**...” What is his heart toward his disciples? If Jesus can forgive his disciples, how can we make steps toward forgiveness in our lives? For what do we need to forgive our brothers and sisters for this week?

