

UNEXPECTED NEWS

Lesson 10

Matthew 28:1–10

RECAP

Take a moment to share about your experience with last week's "Spiritual Practice" and "On Mission" sections.

BIG IDEA

Jesus' death and resurrection is the single most important event in the history of our faith. Without it, we would have no hope. When Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered death forever and completed God's plan for restoring us to a right relationship with the Father. Praise God!

As we look at Christ's followers, we see two main responses to Christ's work on the cross and His resurrection: worship and sharing the Good News.

CONTEXT

After Jesus spent three years in active ministry, bringing the Good News of the Kingdom to both the Jews and the Gentiles, the religious elite finally saw their opportunity to arrest and kill Him. He was tried, beaten, mocked, stripped, nailed to a cross, and died in agony. At His death, the earth shook, the sky darkened, and graves opened. All hope was lost. But that wasn't the end of the story.

READ MATTHEW 28:1–10

¹ *Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.*

² *Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it.* ³ *His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow.* ⁴ *The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.*

⁵ *Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.*

⁶ *He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would*

4. What were the women told to do once they saw that Jesus was no longer in the tomb? (28:7)

a. The angel gave the women four messages: 1) Don't be afraid; 2) He isn't here; 3) Come and see; 4) Go and tell.
i. What does it mean to not be afraid?

ii. The message of "He isn't here" is a declaration of the supernatural resurrection. What does it mean to experience something supernatural?

iii. What does it mean to share something that you have personally experienced?

b. Do you feel that these four messages are relevant to you and your call to serve/follow Jesus today? Why or why not?

- c. The “come and see” message may not feel as applicable today since we often have to believe on faith. However, God is still at work in visible ways. How have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of the people around you?

Have your “come and see” moments been more in the supernatural realm or in the ordinary everyday moments? Share some of your experiences with your group.

5. What happened when the women left the tomb? **(28:8–9)**

- a. How did they respond to Jesus? **(28:9)**

- b. What did Jesus tell the women to do? **(28:10)**

c. Why do you think Jesus repeated the angel's instructions?

6. "Jesus' intention in directing these women to call for his brothers to meet him in Galilee marks an important salvation-historical turning point. Since they are the first witnesses to the resurrection, this suggests that they should be regarded as equal in value to men and be restored as coworkers with men in the community of faith, a role they had been assigned from creation (**Genesis 1:26–28**)."³

a. What do you learn about Jesus from this interaction with the women?

b. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to restore women in this way?

c. What implications does this have for us today?

³ Wilkins, Michael J. *Matthew: The NIV Application Commentary from Biblical Text to Contemporary Life*. Zondervan, 2004. Bible Gateway Plus

d. Jesus used unlikely and unexpected people to share His message. How does Jesus use unlikely people today?

e. How does Jesus use you?

7. Each of these stories tells us more about Jesus, the unexpected King. What is one thing you have learned about Jesus from this lesson, and how will it impact how you live?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Jesus greeted the women with love and kindness, regardless of their fear.

Take some time to imagine yourself in their shoes, being greeted by Jesus.

How does Jesus greet you?

What would you like to say to Jesus when you see Him face to face?

How would you like to worship Him?

Take some time to write out some of the things you would like to say to Jesus. The act of putting these things into words can influence actions and belief.

ON MISSION

While the women ran quickly to tell the others the Good News, they were both frightened and filled with joy. We, too, may hold fear and joy together as we share the Good News.

Share with your group a way that God has met you in your fear and joy. Rehearsing these experiences with each other can bolster our courage and joy as we continue to share the Good News.

What is a next step God may be calling you to, regardless of fear?

PRAYER REQUESTS

SERMON NOTES

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