

Sermon Reflections

The Truth of the Resurrection (Matthew 27:62-28:15)

Summary: The tomb is empty. Jesus rose from the dead. That is the gospel truth. How will you respond?

1. Don't Discredit the Truth (vv 27:62-66)

- The chief priests come to Pilate with some very cynical remarks. Why did they command that the tomb be made secure? What do their comments reveal about their hearts towards the true claims of Christ? ...His disciples?
- Do you have friends, family or co-workers that try to discredit the Gospel? Give examples. What are practical ways you can respond that would most glorify God?

2. Don't oppose the truth (vv 28:1-4)

- The guards faced two fear inducing events at dawn. What was it that terrified them so much? How did they respond? What may have come to their minds as they witnessed the power of God?
- What attribute of God is magnified most in your mind as you see God's power on display here?

3. Don't fear, but tell the Gospel truth (vv 28:5-7) – Jesus rose from the dead.

- Jesus could have easily emerged from the tomb without the help of the angel (see Luke 24:36-37). What are some possible reasons why God had an angel roll the stone away?
- What did the angel command of the women? Are we, as believers under a similar command?
- Consider the meaning of the resurrection. How does this motivate you to boldly proclaim the gospel?

4. Don't fear, but rejoice in the Gospel truth (vv 28:8-10) – You will see Jesus.

- How do these women exemplify obedience to what the angel commanded? What motivated them to "go and tell"?
- Consider the meaning of the resurrection. How does this increase your joy as a believer?

5. Don't suppress the truth (vv 28:11-15)

- How did the chief priests suppress the truth? How did the guards suppress the truth? (And how did this multiply itself throughout history?)
- Consider God's power on display immediately after Jesus' death? What are some overlapping similarities to the guards account here that could have made their story more convincing to the priests?
- List scripture that indicates a person's natural desire to reject the truth of the gospel despite being confronted with evidence. What do these truths remind of us re the doctrine of salvation? See Ephesians 2:1-5.