

A Different Path to Success

The Risen King Matthew 27:57—28:20

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”
Matthew 28:18

1. Read Matthew 27:57–66. What do we learn about Joseph of Arimathea from this passage? (See also Luke 23:50–51; John 19:38–42) What does he do for Jesus?

2. Jesus is dead and buried, but the chief priests and Pharisees are still uneasy. Why? What thorough precautions do they take to alleviate their concerns?

3. Read Matthew 28:1–17. What dramatic events does Matthew describe in verses 2–4?

4. Who are the first witnesses of the empty tomb and then of Jesus himself?
 - a. What things does the angel tell them to do? (verses 5–7)
 - b. What is in their hearts as they depart from the tomb?
 - c. How do they respond to Jesus as he meets them?

5. How do the chief priests respond to the news of what happened at the tomb? (Compare Luke 16:31, from Jesus’ parable.)

6. How do the disciples respond when they see Jesus? (verses 16–17)

7. As you think of the three responses to Jesus from this passage, who do you most identify with? Why?

8. What are some implications of Jesus' resurrection for us today? (For help see: Romans 4:25; 6:4; 8:34; 1 Peter 1:3–5; 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17–19)

For the future? (See 1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 42–44; Revelation 1:17–18)

9. How can the resurrection refresh and renew your outlook on the things of everyday life?
10. Read Matthew 16–20. Throughout his book, Matthew reminds his readers that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed King, who is bringing in a different kingdom. What does Jesus state in verse 18? How would that encourage the disciples? How does it encourage you?
11. What does Jesus command his disciples (then and now)? What promise does he give them (and us)? (verse 20b)
12. In light of the last words Jesus spoke in the book of Matthew, what is your life to be about?
13. Think about what you have learned from studying the book of Matthew this year. How has your faith been strengthened? Consider sharing this with us next week at our sharing time.