

Matthew 28:5–10, 16-20 *And the angel* [the angel of the Lord who rolled back the stone from Jesus' tomb] *answered and said unto the women* [Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (see Luke 24:10)], *“Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which [who] was crucified. ⁶He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you [remember what I have told you].” ⁸And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word [and ran to tell Jesus' disciples what the angel had told them]. ⁹And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “All hail [rejoice or be glad].” And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then said Jesus unto them, “Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee [my brethren to go to Galilee], and there shall they see me” ...¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them [Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus told them to meet Him before His death]. ¹⁷And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe [obey] all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

- I. Introduction: Resurrection morning, a Sunday, at the tomb where the body of Jesus had been laid.
 - A. The two women were bringing spices and dressings to wrap Jesus' body for His final burial. A hasty burial had been performed Friday night after Jesus' body had been taken down from the cross and given to Joseph of Arimathea (see Mt 27:57-60) for burial. The Sabbath, when Jews are commanded to rest, began at sundown on Friday night and continued until sundown Saturday night. All work, including the preparation of a body for burial, must stop before sundown in honor of the Sabbath.
 - B. The women were discussing the problem of the large stone in front of Jesus' tomb (Mark 16:3). They were not strong enough to move the stone, and there were no men with them to help. When they arrived they found the stone already rolled away and the Angel of the Lord there explaining that Jesus was alive again (verse 6). Then he instructed them to go tell the Disciples that Jesus would see them in Galilee (verse 7).

- II. The Great Gathering: The 11 Disciples gathered on a familiar mountain to meet Jesus, verse 16
 - A. Not Because of the Size
 - 1. At least 12 were there: Jesus and the 11 Disciples
 - 2. Many more were probably there, but certainly 500 or less (see 1 Corinthians 15:6). We cannot know the exact number.
 - B. Because of Who Was There: Jesus, God in human form.
 - C. Because of the Purpose: Jesus sent the Disciples out from that place to proclaim to the world that the sin-debt had been paid. The need for any type of sacrifice offered to God was no longer necessary.
 - D. Because of What Happened after the Meeting
 - 1. The Disciples were faithful: They went in every direction from that place and shared this good news. They established churches to continue sharing that same message.
 - 2. The Disciples were courageous: All but one of the original Disciples (and many others) were killed because of their message.
 - 3. The Disciples were successful: Each believer in Jesus Christ today is the result of this first group of Disciples on that mountain with Jesus.
- III. The Great Proclamation, verse 18: Jesus commands all power.
 - A. It Was Unique: “...*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...*” No one else could claim all power, though many have tried.
 - B. Without It, Verses 19-20 Would Be Impossible (three instructions)
 - 1. Teach people about the One True God, “...*teach all nations...*”
 - a. His unchanging nature: The need to satisfy both His love and His justice, John 3:16
 - b. His giving nature: His willingness to pay the sin-debt He didn't owe because we are unable to pay it ourselves, Romans 4:24-25
 - c. Our creation in His image: We understand all these concepts (love, justice, compassion, debt and reconciliation, many others) because they're built into us by Him, Genesis 1:26-27
 - d. Our personal responsibility: We have each made conscious decisions to do wrong even though we could and should do right, Romans 3:10-18
 - e. Our sin nature: Our God-given free will for choosing right over wrong is always challenged by our tendency to choose the wrong, Romans 7
 - 2. Baptism, “...*baptizing them...*”
 - a. For identification with this message
 - b. As an early testimony of your belief in Jesus' resurrection
 - c. As an act of obedience to Jesus' commandment
 - 3. The changed life, “...*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...*”
 - a. To please your new Father, 1 Thessalonians 4:1
 - b. As a testimony to the world of what happened inside, Romans 6:4
 - c. From a sincere love for other people, recognizing that they are still in the condition that you were saved from, 1 Corinthians 9:6-11
 - C. Because They Became a Reality

- IV. The Great Promise, verse 20: "...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...":
 - A. We Are Working with Omnipotence
 - 1. He created the heavens and the earth
 - 2. No one else has ever risen from the dead
 - B. We Can Do Everything He Commanded: God's commandments can only be done through God's power
- V. The Great Commandment (verse 19-20, also called The Great Commission)
 - A. Make Disciples of all nations
 - 1. Teach the nations: The word 'nations' means 'ethnic groups,' people who have separated themselves into unique groups for survival and fellowship
 - 2. Disciples and people disciplined in their thought processes (mind) and behavior, not just people belonging to a group
 - B. Win Souls: They must know the One True God as He reveals Himself in His Word, the Bible
 - C. Baptize Them: The example is given throughout the New Testament
 - 1. Jesus was baptized
 - 2. All the disciples were baptized
 - 3. Three-thousand people were baptized on the day of Pentecost
 - 4. Almost every story of a new believer in the New Testament includes their baptism
 - 5. It shows that you believe that Jesus rose bodily from the dead, 1 Corinthians 15:14-18.
 - D. Teach Them to Do What You Were Taught to Do
 - 1. New Christians must mature in the faith, learn how to please God
 - 2. Christians should learn to be soul-winners themselves
 2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou [Timothy] hast heard of me [Paul] among many witnesses [his changed life, his faithfulness in sharing God's message with everyone he could], the same commit thou to faithful men [these things you must continue to teach each new, faithful believer], who shall be able to teach others also.*

VI. How Can We Fulfill the Great Commission? All of us are disciples, followers of Jesus Christ. We are all in the process of maturing in our faith.

A. We All Must Go, some further than others:

Mark 16:15 *And he [Jesus] said unto them [His Disciples], **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature** [person].*

Acts 1:8 *But ye [Jesus' Disciples] shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you [when the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside of you]: **and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.***

1. Go to your family and those that are close to you, as a witness
2. Go to your neighborhood, your community, and your city (your "Jerusalem")
3. Go to neighboring cities (your "Judea")
4. Go to neighboring States and neighboring countries (your "Samaria")
5. God to far away countries, "...unto the uttermost part of the earth..."

B. We All Must Pray

Hebrews. 4:15-16 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities [Our High Priest (Jesus) understands how our weaknesses feel]; but was in all points tempted like as we are [because He faced all the same temptations that we face], yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.***

1. We can go to God at any time, and at any place, Matthew 6:18
2. Pray according to God's will, 1 John 5:14
3. The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray, Romans 8:26

C. We All Must Give

2 Corinthians 9:7 ***Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give** [Every one of you should give as you have decided in your heart]; **not grudgingly, or of necessity** [don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure]: *for God loveth a cheerful giver.**

1. Every person can give **something**
2. Give as God moves in **your** heart
3. **Don't be pressured** by anyone, experience God working in you
4. Giving is **not necessary**, not part of your salvation, Ephesians 2:9
5. Giving should **result in joy**, cheerfulness
6. Know this is **pleasing to God**, Philippians 4:15-18

VII. Conclusion

- A. The salvation of people will be affected by our witnessing, prayers, and giving
- B. Each person will make a difference as they obey God