

CHRIST AROSE: SO WHAT?

Matthew 28:1-10

INTRODUCTION: This is resurrection Sunday! This morning we will once again celebrate the day that our Lord Jesus rose from the grave. The question for today is: "What difference did Jesus resurrection make when it happened and more importantly what difference does Jesus Christ resurrection make in our lives today? There was a huge attempt made to make sure Jesus did not rise from the tomb: Matthew 27:62-66; Psalm 14:1; Matthew 27:66; Matthew 28:1-10.

I. JESUS RESURRECTION REMOVES LIFE'S FEARS!

There were two kinds of people at the tomb that first Easter Sunday morning; the believers and the unbelievers: Matthew 28:4-5. The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate fear remover: Psalm 118:6; 2 Timothy 1:7. Fear is evidence that you don't trust God to see you through whatever situation you are in. You cannot be trusting God and fearing either life or death at the same time. Psalm 27:1; Revelation 1:17-18. When we come to know Jesus and follow Him and love Him: fear vanishes!

II. JESUS KEEPS HIS WORD!

There are four little words found in our text for today: Matthew 28:6: "Just as he said." Jesus had told His disciples several times that He would rise from the grave on the third day: Matthew 16:21; Matthew 17:22-23; Matthew 20:18-19. The Lord always keeps His word! Matthew 28:2: That stone was not rolled away so Jesus could get out; it was rolled away so the disciples could get in to learn the Lord Jesus had kept His word. That first Sunday morning Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, other women and to Peter. Sunday afternoon He appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus. Sunday evening, He appeared to the same two disciples from Emmaus and to the ten apostles in the Upper Room. The following Sunday He appeared to the eleven apostles. And the following thirty-two days He appeared to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee, then to 500 all at once at a mountain in Galilee, then to His half-brother James, and then from the Mount of Olives He ascended into heaven while the disciples watched. Romans 6:9-10, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; John 20:1-8; John 11:25-26.

III. JESUS IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP!

Our Lord Jesus is worthy of our worship: Matthew 28:9; Matthew 28:16-17. Our Lord Jesus always responds to our obedience! Matthew 28:8-9. When we obey God's Word He always shows up: John 14:21; 2John 2:3-6. Our God always blesses obedience and never blesses disobedience. Our Lord Jesus is worthy of our worship because He is Creator God: John 1:1-5. Our Lord Jesus is worthy of our worship because He alone has risen from the dead: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Jesus is worthy of our worship because we become like whatever we chose to worship: Exodus 20:4-6. If we mold an idol the idol will mold us. When we worship our Lord Jesus we become more like Him.

IV. JESUS RESURRECTION MAKES US HIS WITNESSES!

Matthew 28:6-8: we need that same urgency in our lives: Matthew 28:18-20. The focus of our witness is the resurrected Christ! John 11:25-26. What difference does it make if you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? It will remove fears from your heart. You will find that Jesus always keeps His word. You will find Jesus becoming the center of your worship and you will become like Him. Jesus will become the focus of your witness in life!