

## A&P Bible Church | Weekly Study Matthew 27:57-66 & 28:1-10

### **BOOK SUMMARY:**

The Gospel of Matthew clearly shows the influence of its writer's background, and his effort to reach a specific audience. Matthew was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, a Jewish man, and a former tax collector. This profession would have required literacy, and Matthew may have transcribed some of Jesus' words as they were spoken. This book is filled with references to the Old Testament, demonstrating to Israel that Jesus is the Promised One. Matthew also includes many references to coins, likely due to his former profession. Matthew records extensive accounts of Jesus' teaching, more than the other three Gospels.

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Throughout the week continue to look through the scriptures, think through the questions, and apply the Word to your life. Email any questions during the week to Brandon & Travis at [ap.brandongarcia@gmail.com](mailto:ap.brandongarcia@gmail.com) & [ap.travisjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:ap.travisjohnson@gmail.com).

## MONDAY

### **Burial of Jesus, 27:57-61**

Ordinarily, there was little ceremony in connection with those crucified, and their bodies would be thrown into a shallow grave or even on a refuse heap. The problem of what to do with the body of Christ was quickly solved, however, by the intervention of Joseph of Arimathea. The account given in all four gospels (Mk 15:42-47; Lk 23:50-56; Jn 19:38-42) indicates that he was a wealthy and influential man, a member of the Sanhedrin (Lk 23:51), and one who had been secretly a disciple of Jesus (Jn 19:38). He went boldly in to Pilate, although this involved ceremonial defilement for a Jew during the feast, and requested the body of Jesus. Mark 15:44-45 records Pilate's surprise that Jesus was already dead, his inquiry from the centurion to verify the fact, and his permission to Joseph.

Matthew and the other gospels record the details of His burial. In the custom of the Jews, He was wrapped in clean linen cloth, and His body was placed in a new tomb hewn out of the rock. The stone door was rolled before the opening of the tomb, as they completed the act of burial. Matthew records that the two women, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," identified in Mark 15:47 as "mother of Joseph," watched the burial. John 19:39-40 adds that Nicodemus, who first encountered Jesus in the incident recorded in John 3, participated in the burial, bringing myrrh and aloes of about one hundred pounds, the spices being used to saturate the linen cloths in which the body of Jesus was bound. John also records that the place of burial was in a garden.

The entire burial operation was done with some haste, because the Sabbath, which began at sundown, was already beginning (Mk 15:42; Lk 23:54; Jn 19:42). The Sabbath following the Passover had a special meaning, leading as it did to the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread.

(Source: <https://walvoord.com/article/221>)

- More on what the Sanhedrin was: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Sanhedrin.html>

### **Matthew 27:57-61 Breakdown**

*Jesus' Burial* 57Now when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus.  
God gave this man riches and power so that he could bury Jesus.

58He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered that it be given to him.

After his wife's dream, three hours of darkness, the questioning of Jesus, and the testimony of the soldiers, the superstitious Pilate was not about to deny this request.

59Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin. He did not agree with the decision to crucify Jesus. He took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Only loving hands touched the dead body of Jesus. Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped the cloth around the corpse of Jesus.

60and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away.

It is interesting to note that the tomb of Joseph was purchased in Jerusalem and not Arimathea. Joseph may have prepared this tomb in advance.

61(Now Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there, opposite the tomb.)

All of the disciples had deserted Jesus, but not these two women.

## TUESDAY

### ***Sealing of the Tomb, 27:62-66***

Only Matthew records the incident of the chief priests and Pharisees coming to Pilate the next day, which was Saturday, and requesting that the tomb be sealed to keep the disciples from stealing the body of Jesus and then claiming that He was risen from the dead. It is most interesting that the chief priests and Pharisees, who were unbelievers, remembered the prediction of Jesus that He would rise again after three days, while this truth does not seem to have penetrated the consciousness of the disciples in their sorrow. With Pilate's permission, the Jews sealed the stone, which had closed the tomb's door, and set a watch of soldiers to be sure there was no interference with the tomb.

The temple soldiers were not used for this purpose, as their jurisdiction was only the temple area. A regular detachment of Roman soldiers was sent to watch the tomb. Pilate had said to them, "Make it as sure as ye can," and so they did. Stealing the body of Jesus was an impossibility, but chief priests, and Pharisees, and all the power of the Roman government could not prevent Jesus rising from the grave. Their care in thus guarding the tomb only added to the certainty of the evidence when the resurrection took place.

(Source: <https://walvoord.com/article/221>)

### ***The Burial of the King (Matthew 27:55-66)***

The Lord Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb (verses 57-60), another fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 53:9). The burial was proof of His death. The Lord Jesus really died on the cross. When He was taken off that cross He was really dead and He was really buried. Normally, dead bodies are buried, not live ones. Some unbelievers today, in order to try to disprove the resurrection, say that the Lord never really died on the cross. They insist that when He was placed in the tomb He was still living, and after some time He revived and was able to stand up and walk away telling everyone that He had risen from the dead. There is not one ounce of plausibility or truth to this theory.

The burial of Christ is important. As Wilbur Smith once wrote: "We know more about the burial of the Lord Jesus than we know of the burial of any single character in all of ancient history. We know infinitely more about His burial than we do the burial of any Old Testament character, of any king of Babylon, of any Pharaoh of Egypt, of any philosopher of Greece, or of any triumphant Caesar. We know who took His body from the cross; we know something of the wrapping of the body in spices, and burial clothes; we know the very tomb in which this body was placed, the name of the man who owned it, Joseph, of a town known as Arimathea. We know even where this tomb was located, in a garden nigh to the

place where He was crucified, outside the city walls. We have four records of this burial of our Lord, all of them in amazing agreement, the record of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.”

This indicates that God considers the burial of Christ something very important. Why else would He take the time to record this event with such meticulous care and accuracy?

There is one prerequisite for being buried, as we have mentioned already. The person first must be dead! In fact, Pilate refused to let Jesus be buried until he first made sure that He was really dead (see Mark 15:43-45)! The soldiers made sure that Christ was really dead (John 19:33-34)! The fact that Christ was buried is proof that He died. Compare the great gospel facts in 1 Corinthians 15:3- 5—“Christ died for our sins!” What’s the proof? “He was buried!” “Christ rose again from the dead.” What’s the proof? “He was seen (by numerous eyewitnesses—1 Cor. 15:5 and following)!”

The burial of Christ not only proves that He died, but it also looks ahead to the empty tomb. The fact that Christ was buried gives unmistakable evidence that He really rose again. A dead body was placed in a tomb and was buried. Three days later that body was gone and the tomb was empty. All the world could come and look at the place where He was buried and see that the body was missing! “Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6) is the great angelic invitation. The Lord’s enemies did all that they could to keep Him buried forever (Matthew 27:62-66), but it was all in vain. “Up from the grave He arose!”

The women saw the exact place where the Lord was buried (verses 55-56,61). Some unbelievers say that the Lord did not really rise again from the dead but that the women mistakenly came to the wrong tomb, and this is how the resurrection rumor got started. However, this unsupportable theory does not take into account two key facts: 1) These women were eyewitnesses of His burial and they knew the exact location of the tomb; 2) Even if the women had made a mistake and gone to the wrong tomb, the enemies of the Lord would have quickly pointed out the correct tomb and in doing this would have forever silenced the rumors about His being alive. However, the Lord’s enemies knew that the tomb was empty. All they needed to do was bring forth the Lord’s body to demonstrate that He was dead, but they could not do this.

The last part of Matthew chapter 27 shows how the enemies made sure, as best they could, that the tomb of the Lord was secure and well-guarded. They had remembered that the Lord had predicted His own resurrection (verse 63; at least in this we give them more credit than the disciples who did not believe the Lord’s predictions about His resurrection). These enemies seemed to fear that the disciples would come and steal the body and then tell everyone that He rose again from the dead. Some unbelievers still explain away the resurrection in this way (compare Matthew 28:15).

Notice that they sealed the stone (verse 66). The seal of the stone was to make sure that no one would move the stone without it being very apparent and obvious. We are reminded of the seal which was placed on the stone guarding Daniel when he was in the den of lions (Daniel 6:17). The seal at the entrance to our Lord's tomb could have been a cord covered with clay or wax on which an official Roman seal has been impressed. This was attached to the stone at the grave's entrance. The message was very clear: This seal is backed up by the power and authority of Rome—let no one tamper with this stone!

They also “set a watch” (verse 66) which means that they made sure that the tomb was well guarded by Roman soldiers given to them for this purpose by Pilate. Everything was set and ready for the greatest miracle of all time!

(Source: [https://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/matthew/mat27\\_28.pdf](https://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/matthew/mat27_28.pdf))

### **Matthew 27:62-66 Breakdown**

*The Guard at the Tomb 62The next day (which is after the day of preparation) the chief priests and the Pharisees assembled before Pilate 63and said, “Sir, we remember that while that deceiver was still alive he said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’*

The chief priests were the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus and the dead saints walking through Jerusalem must have shaken them, but it did not convert them. Unless God opens the eyes of a skeptic, it is impossible for them to believe, even if they witness the resurrections of the dead. The Pharisees hated the Sadducees, but they joined together against Christ. They both understood the claims of Jesus. They understood that He would raise Himself from the dead after three days.

*64So give orders to secure the tomb until the third day. Otherwise his disciples may come and steal his body and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.”*

With all of the first-hand evidence, these skeptics still could not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Their total depraved and sinful nature explained away the resurrection.

*65Pilate said to them, “Take a guard of soldiers. Go and make it as secure as you can.”*

Roman legions were guarding the tomb of Jesus to make sure that the disciples did not steal the body.

*66So they went with the soldiers of the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.*

Sixteen soldiers guarded the tomb of a dead man. Twelve were always on duty and four were sleeping or resting. A two ton rock covered the entrance to the tomb. The Roman seal was placed upon the rock. Anyone who broke the seal was given the death penalty. If the guards fell asleep, then they would receive the death penalty as well. The Pharisees think that they are keeping the disciples from stealing the body. What they were actually doing was confirming the resurrection.

## WEDNESDAY

### ***How Important Is the Resurrection to Christianity?***

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central truth of the Christian faith. Without it there is no such thing as the Christian faith.

Long ago man named Job asked the big question, that sooner or later every human being has to face.

*If a person dies, will they live again? (Job 14:14).*

This same question remains to this day, "Is this life all that there is? Or is there life beyond the grave? Is it possible for anyone to know the answer to this question?"

The Christian's answer to Job's question is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

### ***The Place Of The Resurrection In The New Testament***

The resurrection of Christ occupies a central place in the New Testament. It is mentioned directly over one hundred times.

### ***It Is The Focal Point Of The Christian Faith***

The message of the early Christians, and the focal point of the New Testament, was stated in this simple truth by the Apostle Paul:

*Jesus Christ, risen from the dead (2 Timothy 2:8).*

This is the central truth of the Christian faith. The importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot be overemphasized. Without the resurrection there is no Christianity.

### ***The Resurrection Was The Central Teaching Of The Apostles***

The resurrection was central to the teaching and preaching in the Apostles. It was the subject of every sermon we find in the Book of Acts.

*Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36).*



The apostles proclaimed Jesus' resurrection.

*They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead (Acts 4:2).*

Paul said.

*For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:31).*

### **It Was The Substance Of Their Teaching**

The substance of the preaching of the early church was the resurrection of Christ. However, many of the Jew rejected Jesus because He died on the cross. The Old Testament says.

*You must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse (Deuteronomy 21:23).*

Yet there were many Jews who were converted to Him.

*So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41).*

This includes a number of priests who believed in Jesus.

*And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7).*

The only explanation for so many Jews accepting Jesus as their Messiah was His resurrection.

### **The Resurrection Is The Cornerstone Of Christianity**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth:

*Now if Christ is preached, that he has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that he raised Christ, whom he*

*did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).*

Notice how clearly Paul stated the matter - no resurrection, no Christianity.

### **If Jesus Had Not Been Raised, Then The Following Would Be True**

According to Paul, if Christ has not been raised then the following five things would be true.

1. Christian preaching is empty and so in anyone's faith because the object of the faith, Christ, is not whom He said He was.
2. The apostles are liars for testifying to a resurrection that did not occur.
3. No forgiveness has been granted for anybody's sin.
4. Those who have died believing in Christ have no hope.
5. If hope in Christ is limited to this life, Christians are to be pitied above all people.

(Source: [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_811.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_811.cfm))

## THURSDAY

### **There Is No Meaning For Humanity If Christ Is Not Risen**

Without the resurrection, Christianity has no meaning for humanity – its founder would have been a liar and a failure, and its followers would have no hope. Thus the importance of the resurrection to Christian faith cannot be overestimated.

There are those who say that even without the resurrection, Christianity has significance. They hold that Christ's teachings provide ethical guidelines for humanity. The New Testament, however, testifies that this is not the case. Without the resurrection there is no meaningful Christianity.

### **There Are Other Areas Of Importance Of The Resurrection**

We add further areas of importance of Christ's resurrection. It is important to Jesus' identity, to His true character to His ministry, and to His message.

### **It Is Important To His Identity**

**The resurrection is crucial to confirming the identity of Jesus.**

*And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4)*

### **It Is Important To His True Character**

If Christ did not rise then He was a liar, for He predicted He would come back from the dead.

*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify him, and on the third day he will be raised up (Matthew 20:18,19).*

The resurrection authenticates Him as a true prophet. Without His resurrection everything that Jesus said would be subject to doubt.

**It Is Important To His Ministry**

If Jesus did not rise, then His ministry would have ended in defeat. Believers would not have a High Priest to intercede for them to God the Father. There would be no one to head the church and no one to indwell believers and give them power to live godly lives.

**It Is Important To His Message**

According to the Apostle Paul, the resurrection of Jesus is one of the four pillars of the gospel message. He wrote.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures and that he appeared to . . . (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).

These four pillars are:

1. Christ died.
2. Christ was buried
3. Christ was raised.
4. Christ appeared.

Without the resurrection there is no gospel message. Its importance to the Christian faith cannot be overestimated.

**The Resurrection Was Unique To Christianity**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is unique to the Christian faith - no other religious figure has ever predicted his own resurrection, and then accomplished it. All of the other world religions are based on a founder who lived in the past and whose religion is his only legacy. Mohammed died at age 61 on June 8, A.D. 632 in Medina. He is still dead. Confucius died and Buddha also died. They also remain dead - Jesus Christ is alive.

**Summary**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith. It is mentioned over one hundred times in the New Testament. It was the main point for each sermon in the Book of Acts. Without it there is no Christian faith. Paul said the resurrection is important to the believer for a number of reasons. He said that Christian preaching is empty if Jesus did not come back from the dead. The faith of the believer is worthless if Christ is not risen

because he is the object of the faith. In addition, Christ, is not whom He said He was. He would have been a liar. The apostles are also liars for testifying to a resurrection that did not occur. Furthermore, there is no forgiveness for anybody's sin. Those who have died believing in Christ have no hope. If hope in Christ is limited to this life, Christians are to be pitied above all people.

The resurrection is also important to the identity and mission of Jesus. First, the resurrection is important to His identity. The resurrection is the demonstration that Jesus indeed is the Son of God. The resurrection is also important to His character. Jesus would not have been a true prophet had He not come back from the dead as He predicted that He would. It is important to Jesus' ministry. If He did not come back from the dead then His ministry would have ended in defeat. Finally, it is important to His message. The centrality of the Christian message is that Jesus died and then came back from the dead. If He did not come back from the dead then there is no Christianity. Consequently we see that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely crucial to the Christian faith.

(Source: [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_811.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_811.cfm))

## FRIDAY

### ***The Resurrection of the King (Matthew 28:1-10)***

In most biographies the last chapter written is about the person's death, because this is the last thing that happened to the man or woman. After a person dies that is it. There is not much more that can be said about a person after the person dies. The writing about the life ends where the life ends. After death the person will do no more and say no more. George Washington did not serve as our president after he died! Babe Ruth did not hit any more home runs after he died. Bach and Mozart and Beethoven did not write any more music after they died! Dead people just do not do such things. The man (or woman) has passed on and no other chapter can be written about the person's actual life.

The inspired biography of Jesus Christ is quite amazing. Notice that Matthew 27 (about the death of Christ) is not the last chapter! There is another chapter (chapter 28) which tells about a risen Christ! After the account of the death of Christ, the Lord's life story is not all over! We read more! We find this Man still doing certain things and saying certain things. The One who had been dead lives again. His biography continues on.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is mentioned at least 104 times in the New Testament. Without the resurrection there would be no gospel, no salvation, no Christianity and no message of hope for men.

Suppose a religious or political leader living today began to make the following announcement over the radio: "I want you all to know that when I go to London, my enemies will murder me and my body will be buried. However, in less than a week's time I will be raised from the dead and hundreds of people will see me alive." What an extraordinary prediction coming from the lips of any man! Who would ever believe such a thing? The Lord Jesus made just this kind of prediction repeatedly (Matthew 16:21; 17:9; 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 26:32), and as already mentioned, even His enemies were aware of this prediction (Matthew 27:63). This is why Matthew 28:6 says that He is risen as He said! The Lord Jesus was not a deceiver (compare Matthew 27:63) because what He had said was perfectly fulfilled.

Note that the stone was rolled away by the angel (Matthew 28:2) not by the Lord. The purpose of this was not to allow Jesus to get out of the tomb, but rather to show everyone that the tomb was already empty—"He is not here!" (verse 6). To some the risen Lord made personal appearances (verse 9) and these people became eye and ear witnesses (they both saw and heard the risen Lord; indeed they even touched Him--verse 9).

(Source: [https://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/matthew/mat27\\_28.pdf](https://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/matthew/mat27_28.pdf))

**Matthew 28:1-10 Breakdown**

*The Resurrection 1Now after the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

Where are all of the men? When men refuse to lead, women will take up the slack.

*2Suddenly there was a severe earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descending from heaven came and rolled away the stone and sat on it.*

This was an unusual earthquake which was created and controlled by God. This would surely wake up any sleeping guards. And an angel came down from heaven and rolled the 4,000 pound stone away. Yet they heard nothing.

*3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.*

The angel was brightly covered, possibly reflecting the Shekinah Glory of God.

*4The guards were shaken and became like dead men because they were so afraid of him.*

The Roman guards were known for their courage, but they had never seen anything like this during their military service.

*5But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.*

The angel ignores the soldiers and speaks softly to the women. Women were the first to hear the good news of the resurrection.

*6He is not here, for he has been raised, just as he said. Come and see the place where he was lying.*

Jesus predicted that He would be raised from the dead after three days.

*7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there.' Listen, I have told you!"*

Jesus told the disciples to meet Him in Galilee after His resurrection (Matt 26:32). He sent the women back to remind them of this appointment.

*8 So they left the tomb quickly, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.*

The women were scared, but joyous. Their Savior was alive.

*9 But Jesus met them, saying, "Greetings!" They came to him, held on to his feet and worshiped him.*

The women worshiped Jesus as God. Angels do not allow others to worship them.

*10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."*

This Galilee appointment was mentioned for the third time.