

When was the last time you went to a funeral? Was the person who died a Christian? Describe your feelings? Did it cause you to think about your own death? Was the resurrection of Jesus mentioned by the pastor? How does a belief in Jesus' resurrection give us hope in our most hopeless seasons?

The teaching and ministry of Jesus recorded by Matthew in the first 27 chapters of his book only has value if what he wrote in chapter 28 is true. Have you accepted what Matthew wrote about the teachings of Jesus while doubting what Matthew wrote about the resurrection of Jesus?

1-10 Bring your devotion expectantly.

The two Marys went to see the tomb? Apparently they had a degree of devotion for Jesus but little expectation of see him alive. Do you come to Jesus either in private or public worship with devotion without expectation? How does expectation impact our worship?

v.6-8 The angel invited the women to "come" and "see" the empty tomb. This is a prerequisite for worship of and service to Jesus. What prevents you from consistently "coming" and "seeing" the resurrection power of Jesus?

The women were told by the angel and Jesus to "go and tell" what they had seen and heard at the empty tomb. What prevents you from consistently "going and telling" the story of Jesus death and resurrection to others? How would you have to adjust your schedule this week if you did what Jesus told the women to do in v.10? Who do you know that you should go and tell?

v.9-10. Jesus calls his disciples "my brothers" even though they all abandoned him when he was arrested. Think about the significance of the Son of God calling you his brother! How does his commitment to you draw you back to him even when you have abandoned him?

11-15. Choose your story carefully.

Men have tried to explain away the resurrection of Jesus since the day he was raised. As the minds of men become more humanistic Christians who believe in the supernatural resurrection of Jesus will become more of a minority. What explanation have you heard or believed?

Is the resurrection power of Jesus still 'earth-shattering' for you?

How is the resurrection power of Jesus producing seismic shifts in your thinking and conduct still today?

Read Ephesians 1:18-20. Describe a time when Jesus surprised you with his resurrection power beyond your degree of expectation.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 15
- John 11:1-4