

Sunday we will begin examining the gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection. We will start with Matthew's resurrection narrative.

In preparation for Sunday's class, please read **Matthew 27:50-28:20**. *It will be helpful to remain just in Matthew's narrative rather than referring to other narratives when answering these questions.*

1. Historically, who was Matthew's original audience?
2. When the tombs break open (**27:52**), what emerged from the graves? Be specific. When were they released from the graves? What resulted from these events (**27:54**)?
3. Who was also present (**27:55-56**)? Where are the disciples, particularly the twelve?
4. Who asks for the body of Jesus? What three things do we learn about him (**27:57**)? Based upon **Deuteronomy 21:23**, why was it necessary to bury Jesus that night?
5. The burial of Jesus (**27:59-61**). What is Jesus' body wrapped with and who performs this task? What is his body laid in and how is it secured? Be specific. Who is also present at the burial site?
6. Based on **27:62**, what day was Jesus placed in the tomb?
7. **27:62-66**. Matthew's narrative provides this unique backstory—the Jewish leaders request guards to be placed at the tomb as well as a false cover-up story after Jesus' resurrection. Why is this incident recorded (**28:11-15**)? When the guards testify later that the disciples stole the body of Jesus, why is this clearly false?
8. What day/time did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb?
9. Describe what the angel of the Lord looked like. What resulted from the earthquake (**27:2, 4**)?

10. What was the angel's message to the women? How would you describe the emotion of the women? What were they expecting to find at the tomb?
  11. When the women finally meet Jesus how does he greet them? How do they greet him?
  12. What mountain was Jesus referring to? (**Mt 4:8, 14:23, 15:29, 17:1, 24:3, 26:30**).
  13. Who is Matthew referring to when he says "but some doubted"? What kind of "doubt" does Matthew have in mind?
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On Wednesday, we will discuss Mark's narrative of the resurrection. Please read **Mark 15:37-16:20**.

1. Historically, who was Mark's original audience?
2. Name the women who are watching the events in **15:38-39**.
3. What day was Jesus crucified? Why do you think Mark takes the opportunity to explain that the "Day of Preparation" was the day before the Sabbath?
4. What additional information do we learn about Joseph of Arimathea? Why do you think this is omitted in Matthew's Gospel?
5. Why was Pilate surprised that Jesus was already dead? Who pronounced Jesus' death? Based upon Mark's account (**15:44-45**) coupled with John's account (**Jn 19:31-34**), can we be certain that Jesus was actually dead or was he simply unconscious (swoon theory)?

6. Name the women who went to the tomb. What day/time? Why did they go to the tomb? How did they know where the tomb was located (**Mt 27:61**)? What problems were they expecting to encounter at the tomb?
7. When the women approach the tomb, who was already there? Characterize the “young man”. What announcement does he make?
8. What command does he give the women and do they obey the command? Explain the women’s reaction.
9. Can you explain when and how Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (**16:9**), with or without the other women present?
10. Why did the eleven not believe the women and the two on the road?
11. What is ironic regarding the commission given in **16:15-16**, knowing the eleven’s disbelief in the previous verses?
12. Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include **16:9-20**. As you read the text, does it naturally makes sense for the chapter to end at verse 8? If Mark intends to stop his message at verse 8, what point would he be trying to make?
13. Does **16:9-20** read naturally with the rest of the chapter? Is there anything within **16:9-20** that contradicts with teachings found throughout Scripture?