

SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

The Risen King Matthew 27:57–28:20

*“Then Jesus came to them and said,
‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”* Matthew 28:18

Day 1: Read Matthew 27:57-66.

1. Joseph of Arimathea is a man who has a lot to lose by associating himself with an executed “criminal.”
 - a. What do we learn about Joseph from this passage? (See also Lk. 23:50-51; * Jn. 19:38-42)
 - b. What does he do for Jesus?
2. Jesus is dead and buried, and his disciples have made themselves scarce.
 - a. Why are the chief priests and Pharisees still uneasy?
 - b. What thorough precautions do they take?

Day 2: Read Matthew 28:1-15.

3. What dramatic events does Matthew describe in verses 2-4?
4. Who are the first witnesses of the empty tomb and then of Jesus himself?
 - a. What things does the angel tell them to do? (vv. 5-7)
 - b. What is in their hearts as they depart from the tomb?
5. Jesus meets the women as they hurry away from the tomb. How do they respond to him?
6. How do the chief priests respond to the news of what happened at the tomb? (* Compare Lk. 16:31, from Jesus’ parable.)
7. Peek ahead to verses 16-17. How do the disciples respond when they see Jesus?
8. As you look through this passage which of the three responses do you most identify with? Why?

Day 3: Read Matthew 28:1-10.

9. What are some implications of Jesus’ resurrection for us today? (Rom. 4:25; 6:4; 8:34; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; * 1 Cor. 15:14, 17-19)

For the future? (1 Cor. 15:21-22, 42-44; Rev. 1:17-18)

*The  symbol identifies verses for further study.

10. Consider the following quotation: “Those who believe in the resurrection....need, of course, to be sure that they are themselves allowing the resurrection to blow constantly like a fresh breeze through their own lives, thoughts and imaginations. There’s no point defending and explaining God’s new world if you’re still living in the old one yourself.”¹

How can the resurrection refresh and renew your outlook on the things of everyday life?

Day 4: Read Matthew 28:16-20.

11. Throughout his book, Matthew reminds his readers that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed King, who is ushering in a new kingdom. Trace the theme of Jesus’ kingship through the following verses.

Verse(s)	Themes of the King and his Kingdom
Genealogy (1:1)	
Birth (2:1-2, 6)	
Start of Ministry (3:1-2; 4:17)	
Teaching (e.g., 5:3; 13:11, 24, 31, 44, 47; 18:3-4, 23; 19:14; 20:1; 22:2; 25:1)	
Entry into Jerusalem (21:4-5, 9)	
Trial and Crucifixion (27:11, 37)	
Commissioning the Disciples (28:18)	

12. The risen King Jesus states, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (v. 18). How should Jesus’ resurrection and comprehensive authority affect the way we view the commands, the teaching, and the actions we have studied this year?

Day 5: Read Matthew 28:16-20.

13. What does Jesus command his disciples (then and now)?

What promise does he give them (and us)? (v. 20b)

14. The teaching that Jesus calls his disciples to is not just the passing on of information. What does it mean to teach others to obey everything that Jesus has commanded?

15. In light of the Great Commission, what is your life to be about?

¹Wright, NT. Matthew for Everyone: Part Two: London, England: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002, p. 204