

## Good News: This Changes Everything!

Matthew 28:1-10

April 5, 2026 (Easter)

### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

### MAIN THEME

Easter celebrates the most important event in human history—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On that first Easter morning, a small group of grieving followers went to a tomb expecting to find a dead body. Instead, they heard the greatest announcement ever made: Jesus had risen from the dead.

The resurrection is not just a religious idea or a hopeful story. It is rooted in a real historical event. If Jesus truly walked out of that grave, then death is not the end, sin is not the final word, and a new beginning is possible.

Many people carry the weight of regret, failure, and disappointment. We often wish we could start over—to undo mistakes, repair broken relationships, or erase painful chapters of our lives. But life usually does not give us a reset button.

Yet the message of Easter tells us something remarkable. Through Jesus Christ, God offers a completely new beginning. Because Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again



in victory over death, forgiveness and eternal life are available to anyone who believes in him.

The resurrection proves that the payment for sin was accepted, that death has been defeated, and that Jesus truly is the Son of God. Easter therefore confronts every person with an important question: Will you receive the new start that Christ offers?

## DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

### **1. The Empty Tomb: The Good News Announced**

Matthew 28:1–7; Luke 24:5–6; John 11:25

- Why is the angel's announcement that "he has risen" such extraordinary news?
- What does the empty tomb reveal about Jesus' authority over death?
- Why do you think the women were told not to be afraid?
- How does the resurrection give hope in the face of death and loss?

### **2. Why Jesus Died and Rose Again**

Luke 23:39–43; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

- Why is it important to understand the seriousness of sin?
- What does the story of the thief on the cross reveal about God's grace?
- Why can't salvation be earned through good works or religious effort?
- How does understanding the cost of sin help us appreciate the cross?

### **3. The Gift of a New Start**

Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 1:3; Romans 8:1

- What does it mean to be "born again to a living hope"?
- How does forgiveness through Christ change the way we see our past?
- Why do people sometimes struggle to believe God can truly forgive them?
- What difference does it make to live without condemnation?

### **4. Responding to the Resurrection**

Romans 10:9–10; John 1:12; Acts 4:12

- According to Scripture, what does it mean to believe in Jesus?
- Why does the resurrection demand a personal response?



- What does it look like to make Jesus the Lord of your life?
- How can the message of Easter change the way we live each day?

## PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for the incredible good news of Easter. Thank you that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose again in victory over death. Forgive us for the ways we have turned away from you. Help us believe the truth of the resurrection and place our trust fully in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Give us the joy of knowing we are forgiven and the courage to live in the new life you offer. May the hope of the empty tomb shape our lives and draw others to the saving grace of Christ. Amen.

## DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Luke 23:39-43 — The thief on the cross receives forgiveness
- Romans 3:21-26 — How God provides justification through Christ
- Romans 6:1-11 — Sharing in Christ's death and resurrection
- 1 Peter 1:3-9 — A living hope through the resurrection
- John 20:24-31 — The risen Christ appears to Thomas

## NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Pursue Fairness in the Workplace and Treat Others Justly  
Colossians 4:1

