

“Kingdom People” – Week 28

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 - MICHAEL BOWERS



Summary - “He is risen, He is risen indeed.”

We have been in the Gospel of Matthew for 28 weeks, and everything that we have studied so far, has been leading up to this very moment, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. These ten verses (Matthew 28:1-10) are a short account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, however, each of the New Testament gospels gives its summary of these moments as well. (Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-12, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-29). Christ’s resurrection connected all the prophecies, all the teachings, and delivered the hope and promises that mankind had been waiting for since the fall in Genesis (see 3:15). As we saw last week in the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the people were welcoming Him as their long awaited king and redeemer, however, their idea of what that meant, we will see this week, was much too small minded. They wanted a king that would overthrow Rome and deliver the Jewish people back to the place of power they once held during the reign of David. By the time we get to chapter 27, the people’s hearts have shifted from worshipping Jesus as king, to calling for His crucifixion. The events that followed the crucifixion - an earthquake that shook the rocks and caused the curtain in the temple to tear in two from top to bottom, as well as tombs of the saints being opened up and the bodies of the saints being raised to life - led the Centurion who was in charge of the crucifixion to say, “Truly this was the Son of God!” However, nothing in scripture speaks of this fact (that Jesus truly is the Son of God) more than His resurrection from the grave. Nothing in scripture points to the fact that Jesus is truly the King, Redeemer, and Savior they had all been waiting for more than this moment. Throughout the Gospels there are multiple accounts of Jesus raising people from death to life - Jairus' Daughter (Matthew 9:18-26), The Widow's Son at Nain (Luke 7:11-17), Lazarus of Bethany (John 11:1-44), and Saints in Jerusalem (Matthew 27:50-53). As amazing as these accounts are, they are nothing compared to Him raising Himself from the dead. Not only did He do this, but it is exactly what He had been saying that He was going to do since Matthew 12:38-42. If anyone was wondering if He was truly a king, this moment made it absolutely clear that He was the long awaited King and Messiah, and that he had come not to set His people free from Rome, but rather, free from sin. The resurrection of Jesus connects all the teachings, all the prophecies, the hope, the power, our standing in Christ, our position, and our obedience. It moves us from prophecy to promise, from the cross to the empty tomb, from fear to faith, from death to life. And the question is no longer “Did it happen?”—the question is now: “How will you respond to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?”

Scripture - Matthew 28:1-10

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. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he_(s) lay. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

Further Scripture Study

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-12, Luke 14:1-12, John 20:1-29; (see many other verses throughout the guide this week as well)

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

Key Thoughts

The resurrection of Jesus Christ connected all the prophecies, all the teachings, and delivered the hope and promises that we need for eternity and for every day as believers.

Our passage this week begins in a cemetery. Cemeteries are places, then and now, that we can all agree are somber places to step into. A cemetery is always a place of quiet reverence. Why? Because it is a place of finality. However, not in this case!

2,000 years ago, two Marys, Mary the mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, made their way to Jesus' burial place. They were going to attend to the body of Jesus with the proper treatment of a body that had not been attended to prior to this moment, due to the Sabbath. As they are heading to the tomb, there is an earthquake, and an angel of the Lord descends upon the tomb.

Matthew Henry's commentary on the Bible says, "When he died, the earth that received Him, shook for fear; now that He arose, the earth that resigned Him, leaped for joy in His exaltation." Bottom line: the death and resurrection of Jesus shook the earth. (see Matthew 27:51 & 28:2-4)

The two Marys are given a very clear message from the angel of the Lord, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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."

Come, see the place where Jesus lay - they would see, as John describes, the funeral wrappings, not tossed inside the grave, but still wrapped in the shape of the body of Jesus. (John 20:5-7) Even the linen that was upon Jesus' face was neatly folded and placed. Go, tell the disciples. Tell them, "He has risen from the dead."

In verses 8-10 the two Marys depart from the tomb and on their way to tell the disciples they are met by Jesus Himself! They fall at His feet and worship Him and He too tells them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

The resurrection of Jesus immediately confirmed KING JESUS.

In this moment, these two women knew immediately what to do: Worship King Jesus. There is no doubt in this moment. There is no hesitation in this moment. His greeting, his appearance connected the dots, the moments, the teachings: Messiah - King Jesus. Healing - King Jesus. Betrayed - King Jesus. Flogged and beaten - King Jesus. Crucified Jesus. Bruised, but not broken, King Jesus. No longer in the tomb - King Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus shifted the disciples' direction.

They went from being locked up in a house, wondering, fearing, and waiting, to people who now would meet Jesus, examine the living, walking Jesus, preach Jesus, and live for Jesus, and yes, even die as they uphold and preach the resurrected Jesus. One day hiding in defeat, the next day declaring the resurrection. All the lessons, all the years and moments spent with Jesus, and all the teachings that were confusing to them now made sense in the resurrection.

Key Thoughts

The resurrection of Jesus confirms the words of Jesus. (Matthew 16:21, 17:22-23, 20:18-19, 26:26-29)

In each of these moments, Jesus speaks about His death and His resurrection on the third day. In Matthew 17, when Jesus makes this statement, it says, "they were greatly distressed." Other gospel writers say things that they did not yet comprehend, or would not yet know.

But when the first interaction took place with a resurrected Jesus that the disciples had seen be mercilessly beaten, crucified, and placed into the tomb, then appeared to the women, to Mary, to the disciples, then later to more than 500 witnesses, it opened their eyes and confirmed what Jesus taught about Himself.

The resurrection of Jesus solidifies the prophecies about Jesus. (Hosea 6:2, Matthew 12:40, Psalm 16:10 connected to Acts 2:24, Psalm 22)

Many of these moments speak of specific ways Jesus would suffer and die, yet also of this third day, of the hope of a conquering savior.

As the disciples continued to preach the hope and resurrection of Jesus, many of the earliest messages, first by Peter and then by Paul, connect the resurrection of Jesus to the promises of the death and resurrection in the Old Testament.

All of these moments connect to one another, give validity to the moment, but also power for the movement. It is because of these truths and convictions that men like Paul, in the New Testament, became preachers of the message they once denied.

The resurrection shifted the disciples' direction; it validates and confirms the self-proclamations Jesus made about Himself, as well as scriptures that had been proclaimed about Him hundreds of years before He walked the earth.

The resurrection deems Jesus as Prophet, Priest, & King. (John 1:1-18, John 16:7-11, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, Hebrews 7:24-25)

If there is no resurrection, then Jesus would still be in a tomb and His death would have silenced all prophecies about Him, and would have nullified His role in our individual lives as one who interceded on our behalf, who paid our ransom, and reigns as King.

The resurrection of Jesus flips the script from death to life - forever. (1 Corinthians 15, John 14:19)

Chapter 15 in Corinthians begins with Paul giving a roll call of who has witnessed the resurrected Jesus: Cephas, the 12, then 500 followers of Christ at one time. He also makes it personal. Paul pleads with the church of Corinth, if you deny the resurrection, then our preaching is foolish, our lives are being lived without purpose or hope, and death has the final say. Yet, because of the truth and factual resurrection of Jesus, death has, in fact, lost the battle.

Key Thoughts

Then in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, we read a powerful statement from Paul! He is saying here that Heaven is not made for these broken bodies, but for a heavenly one to be like Him (Christ) in a glorified body. He is also saying that death is not victorious!

No resurrection, no victory. No resurrection, no eternal home. No resurrection, then the power of God's word is empty. But because He was raised, we can declare with Paul: 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

The resurrection of Jesus encourages us to press on!

- Press on in our parenting!
- Press on in our marriage!
- Press on in our spiritual growth!
- Press on in sharing the grace and truth of Jesus with our community!
- Press on, be steadfast, immovable in the work of the Lord.
- Press on, in your struggles and hardship.
- Why? Because of the resurrection of Jesus, none of those things in Christ are in vain; they are not wasted.

The resurrection of Jesus empowers our daily grace-filled living. (Romans 8, Romans 6:1-14)

We have an inheritance. We have an eternal home. We are empowered by His promises, His word, and the Holy Spirit to live our lives confidently in and through the resurrection of Jesus. We have been set free from the power of sin.

We are set free from the condemnation of our sin. We are never alone. God is for us. God is moving. We are never separated. We are conquerors. Why and how are all of these truths and more given as a gift to us? Because he has been raised. (see Romans 6:7-11)

How will you respond to the death and resurrection of Jesus? This is not simply an event to observe, but a moment to trust and respond. Those women at the tomb didn't just observe the resurrection—they responded to it. They came and saw. They went and told. And when they encountered Jesus, they worshiped. And that same invitation stands before each of us still today.

Don't stand at a distance, don't treat it as just a tradition or holiday. But step into the reality that: He is risen, and He is pursuing you. Calling you out of fear and into hope. Calling you out of sin and into freedom. Calling you out of death and into life. Connect the dots in your heart. Anchor your life in the resurrection; allow it to change your life. Live trusting, live with eternal hope, live with the knowledge, power, and hope that is found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Reflect & Respond

We see in Matthew 28:1-10 that the resurrection was life changing. As folks saw the truth of who Jesus really was it led to fear and awe, however, it also led to joy and worship. Ultimately it led to all going and telling about it. How has the resurrection of Christ changed your life? Do you live in awe of it? Does this lead you to go and tell?

Is there any part of you that views the resurrection as just a story or a holiday that we celebrate, rather than the awesome truth that it is and what it truly means for our lives and our eternity? What situation in your life perhaps needs to be viewed from the hope of the empty tomb, rather than the perspective you are currently holding onto?

Fear can often be something that grips us in life and keeps us from moving forward. How can the words of Christ in verse 10, "Do not be afraid..." give you hope when it feels that fear is taking over? What perhaps is bringing you fear and/or anxiety in life and how can the promises of Christ provide hope and strength in this season?

There is a mission that is clearly given in verses 7 and 10 of "Go and tell". This will be more fully communicated in 28:18-20 by Jesus again to "Go and make disciples..." How are you currently living on the mission that Christ has given? How willing are you to go and tell? How are you currently living on mission to go and make disciples?

We see the two Mary's in verses 8-9 in a rush to do what they had been called to do. However, in verse 9 we also see them stop and worship. What does worship look like for you in the busy rush of your day? Do you take the time to stop and worship at the feet of Jesus? Please share.

It is one thing to celebrate the resurrection on a Sunday morning at church, but how does it truly change your life? How does it impact your Monday morning? How does it impact the stresses of life throughout the week? How does it impact you in your marriage, your parenting, your schooling, your work, and in your community?

As you think about the resurrection, what are you most thankful for in your life regarding it? Take some time to pray and simply thank Jesus for all that He has accomplished for you through His resurrection from death to life and what this ultimately means for your eternity.