

Sermon Summary 04/05/2015

Matthew 27:55 – 28:15 “The Resurrection and the Welcome of Christ” by Drew Hunter

In Short: Matthew presents a definitive case for the resurrection of Jesus and also outlines the personal significance of a living, fully human Savior.

Sunday's Outline (Thematic)

1. Historical reality of the resurrection – Matthew makes the case for the truth of the resurrection.
 - a. The crucifixion and resurrection were public events with many eyewitnesses.
 - b. The key eyewitnesses were women – less credible, therefore more compelling.
 - c. Matthew presents his case in a restrained manner.
 - d. Matthew confronts an alternative story (the body was stolen) – reinforces the true story.
 - e. The transformation of the disciples.
2. Personal significance of the resurrection – The resurrected Christ is for everyone.
 - a. For the faithful – the woman who had followed and serve him.
 - b. For those with moral failures – the disciples who had abandoned him.
 - c. For those of every ethnicity – “I will meet them in Galilee.”
 - d. For those of different socioeconomic status – buried in a rich man's tomb.

Help for Understanding & Application

- 1) The Jewish leaders wanted to squelch the story of Jesus being the Messiah. Describe the actions they took to ensure the body of Jesus stayed in the tomb and the cover-up in Matthew 28:11-15. How does John 2:19 relate to Matthew 27:63?
- 2) How do each of the following perspectives add credibility to the reality of the crucifixion?
 - The crucifixion and resurrection were public events with many eyewitnesses.
 - The key eyewitnesses were women.
 - Matthew presents his case in a restrained manner.
 - Matthew confronts an alternative story.
 - The transformation of the disciples.
- 3) The following are all characters in the resurrection story. Describe the role each played and the personal significance of each. How do you relate (or not) to each?
 - Mary Magdalene and the other Mary
 - Joseph of Arimathea
 - The Jewish leaders
 - The guards
 - The disciples (“Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee.”)
- 4) The women responded to the resurrected Christ – they were ‘afraid yet filled with joy’ and they ‘clasped his feet and worshiped him’. What is your response to the resurrected Christ?
- 5) How would you respond to an unbeliever who asked about the significance of Easter and the resurrection?