CHAPTER 27
The Resurrection
MATT 26-27, LUKE 24, JOHN 19-21

THE STORY
Introduction

Can you imagine the joy the disciples felt when they saw Jesus raised from the dead?
Saturday was a no hope, no courage kind of day.
The only ones who were pleased were the religious leaders who wanted Jesus killed.
But the religious leaders were also nervous. So they asked Pilate to place a guard at the tomb and seal the stone in place. The resurrection changed everything.
I. The resurrection validated Jesus.
Several times, Jesus had told the disciples what was going to happen to him.

“He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”

Mark 8:31, 9:31-32 and 10:33-34
Romans 1:4 says that Jesus was “declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Jesus himself staked his teaching and his reputation on the resurrection. “When you have lifted up the Son of Man then you will know that I am the one I claim to be.” John 8:28
Look at the evidence:

- His death.
- The empty tomb.
- The grave clothes. John 20:6-7
- The Roman Centurion’s statement – “Surely he was the Son of God.” Matthew 27:54
- His followers’ changed lives – from fear to faith.
- The eyewitness accounts – written so we may believe. John 20:30-31
- Prophecy fulfilled – written hundreds of years before Jesus was born.
- Legal experts who have declared the evidence would stand up in any court of law.
II. The resurrection defeated death.
Death is universal. It comes to everyone.

Why is it that so many people, even those who aren’t Christians, believe there has to be more than just this life?

“He has set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6
“14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

Hebrews 2:14-15
“17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”
56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
I Corinthians 15:17-20, 25-26, 55-57
Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26
III. The resurrection restored hope.
Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus alive. When Mary came to the tomb, she was in a state of shock and grief. Mary thought Jesus was a gardener. When Jesus speaks her name, she realizes that Jesus her Lord is alive from the dead.
Jesus would make 10 appearances to the disciples and others over a 40 day period.

“After his sufferings, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.” Acts 1:3
Conclusion

The resurrection changes everything.

- The resurrection vindicated Jesus.
- The resurrection defeated death.
- The resurrection restored hope.