

Risen Indeed -Sermon Study - Matthew 27:55-28:18

Problem:

bad motives matt 22:15, 23, 34-35

what are your motives - are you willing to believe?

"The facts backing the Christian claim are not a special kind of 'religious' fact. They are the cognitive, informational facts upon which all historical, legal, and ordinary decisions are based." - CHARLES PINNOCK

"I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently assumed that it had not; and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. The philosopher who finds no meaning for this world is not concerned exclusively with the problem of pure metaphysics; he is also concerned to prove that there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to...For myself...the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political. " — [Aldous Huxley](#)

It is reasonable to believe that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead in space time history but reasonableness is worthless in the face of unwillingness -Matt Smith

here is how this is relevant:

<http://shariaunveiled.wordpress.com/2014/07/01/isis-crucifies-8-christians-in-syria-for-apostasy-from-islam/>

Was their death worth it? Would you be willing to put everything on your faith? Study carefully my friends!

Text:

Embarrassing Witnesses (27:55-61)

- Why does Paul not talk about women in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 but Matthew talks about them here?
- Based on Matthew 18:1-4; 23:1-12, James 4:8-10 and 1 Peter 5:5-7, what principle might Matthew be emphasizing here?
- how would this fit with Luke's emphasis regarding the birth announcement in Luke 2:8-14, 25-32, 36-38?
- Matthew goes further than emphasizing women but uses Mary Magdalene by name three different times. What is significant about her based on Luke 8:2?
- not only were women's testimony not important in that society but Mary had previously been known as the crazy woman. How does Matthew's emphasis on her role bring credibility to the fact that this is not a myth or a legend? In other words, how does it give Matthew and his gospel credibility?

Important Opposition (27:62-66)

- Based on Matthew 16:21; 17:9, 22-23; 20:18-19; 26:31-32, what is embarrassing about these opponents' opposition?
- How is Matthew 12:38-40 ironic here?
- Jesus' opponents establish the location and fact of an empty tomb here?
- they establish the fact of His predictions as well. these were not simply a recasting back by the disciples but actual predictions by Christ.

An Empty Tomb (28:1-8)

- The empty tomb establishes that the gospel is an event. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-20. what is significant about it being an event rather than a philosophy or an idea or a collection of teachings?

Changed Lives (28:9-10)

- How are (John 20:19-20 -> Acts 4:13)(John 7:1-5 -> James 1:1 -> 1 Corinthians 15:7)(Acts 1:1-3 -> 1 John 1:1-4) evidence that at least something happened?

An Important Lie (28:11-15)

- Based on Acts 12:19 and 16:27-28, why would these Roman guards go to the Jewish priests and not to Pilate?

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-In concocting their alternative story about WHY the tomb was empty what did they establish as fact about the tomb?

-The fact of the empty tomb explains why they did not call the disciples liars in Acts 4:1-18.

Proof (28:16-18)

-it is reasonable to believe Jesus is the King of Kings

-Matthew begins with proof He was the King of Israel- Matt 1:1

-and the message to Israel was to repent- Matt 4:17; 10:5-7

-Matthew ends with proof He is the King of kings- Phil 2:6-10

-and the message to the world is to repent- acts 17:29-31

Main Idea:

He is risen indeed

read the following articles and discuss:

<http://carm.org/empty-tomb>

<http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/resurrection-evidence.htm>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/why-believe-resurrection.html>

for reference here is a study about what the Resurrection proves that goes nicely with this sermon study

<http://www.barabbasroadchurch.com/study/4-20-14/study.pdf>