

## **HOW TO RESPOND TO THE RESURRECTION**

**By Andy Manning**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. One time I watched a man-on-the-street video; the kind where they go around asking questions to random strangers. In this particular video they were asking people the meaning of Easter. Many people did not know. Some said it was the day we celebrate the birth of Christ. Others just had no idea. None!
2. Easter is the annual holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. What is the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Jesus rose from the grave.
4. The story of Jesus doesn't end with His crucifixion. Yes, Jesus died. But then He rose from the grave, and He is alive today.
5. Today I want to at how we should respond to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. How should Christ's resurrection impact our lives?

### **II. TEXT: Matthew 28:1-10**

1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they became like dead men.

5 The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.' Listen, I have told you."

8 So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell his disciples the news. 9 Just then Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" They came up, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

### **III. THE RIGHT RESPONSE IS TO WORSHIP JESUS**

1. Early Sunday morning.
  - i. This is the reason Christians worship on Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2).
  - ii. Sunday is known as "the Lord's day" (Rev 1:10).
2. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb.
  - i. They knew where Jesus was buried, because they watched as He was taken to the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea. Mt 27:61
  - ii. Who was Mary Magdalene?
    1. Jesus drove out seven demons from her. Mark 16:9
3. There was a violent earthquake. An angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was white as snow.

4. The guards were so afraid that they fainted.
5. The angels told the women:
  - i. Don't be afraid.
    1. The usual reaction to angels is fear.
  - ii. Jesus is risen.
  - iii. Just as he said.
  - iv. Come and see for yourself.
  - v. Go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen, and He will meet you in Galilee.
6. The women departed from the tomb with fear and great joy to tell the disciples the news.
7. Jesus greeted them. "Greetings!"
  - i. "Good morning!" HCSB
8. **Matthew 28:9** "They came up, took hold of His feet, and worshiped him."
  - i. **The right response to the resurrection is to worship the risen Savior.**

#### **IV. THREE REASONS TO WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST**

1. **The resurrection proves that Jesus is all that He claimed to be.**
  - i. **Matthew 28:6** "He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said."
  - ii. He said He would rise again, and He did.
  - iii. Jesus made many outstanding claims about Himself. If He hadn't risen from the grave, then He would be either a liar or a lunatic. But the resurrection proves His authenticity. The resurrection proves His veracity. The resurrection proves divinity. The resurrection proves His reliability.
  - iv. Who did Jesus claim to be? He said...
    1. I am the bread of life. Jn 6:35, 41, 48, 51
    2. I am the light of the world. Jn 8:12; 9:5
    3. I am from above. Jn 8:23
    4. I am not of this world. Jn 8:23
    5. Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am. Jn 8:58
    6. I am the gate for the sheep. Jn 10:7, 9
    7. I am the good shepherd. Jn 10:11, 14
    8. I am the Son of God. Jn 10:36
    9. I am the resurrection and the life. Jn 11:25
    10. I am the way, the truth, and the life. Jn 14:6
    11. I am the true vine. Jn 15:1
    12. I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and Last. Rev 22:13
  - v. Of all the things that Jesus claimed, the most outstanding was the to be God.
    1. To know Him was to know God. Jn 8:19; 14:7
    2. To see Him was to see God. Jn 12:45; Jn 14:7
    3. To believe in him was to believe in God. Jn 12:44
    4. To welcome Him was to welcome God. Mk 9:37
    5. To hate Jesus was to hate God. Jn 15:23
    6. To dishonor Him was to dishonor God. Jn 5:23
    7. He and the Father were one. John 10:30

- vi. If Jesus is God, then He is worthy of our worship.
  - 1. **Colossians 2:9** "For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ."
  - 2. Christ possesses every one of God's attributes: Holiness. Omnipotence. Omniscience. Omnipresence. Omnibenevolence.

## 2. The resurrection proves that Jesus can save us from our sins.

- i. The Bible says we have a sin problem.
  - 1. All of us have sinned.
  - 2. The punishment is eternal separation from God.
  - 3. We cannot save ourselves.
  - 4. God would be unjust to look the other way.
- ii. Jesus claimed that He came to earth to fix our sin problem. He claimed to take the punishment for our sins, so that we could be forgiven.
  - 1. **Mark 10:45** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
  - 2. Christ claimed to die for our sins, and that all we have to do is believe in Him and we would be forgiven.
- iii. But if Jesus did not rise from the grave, then this is all a lie. Christ was just another false teacher.
- iv. But when Christ rose from the grave, it proved that Jesus is the Savior of the world. If He has the power to rise from the grave, then He has the power to die for the sins of the world.
- v. This is reason to worship Christ. We can be forgiven. We can be reconciled to God. We don't have to be punished for our sins. Jesus loved us so much that He died in our place. He was crucified for us.

## 3. The resurrection proves that Jesus can give us eternal life.

- i. Jesus claimed not only that there is life after death, but that He has the power to give us eternal life.
  - 1. This life is not all there is.
  - 2. This life is not the end.
  - 3. That there is a much better place in store for those who believe in Jesus.
  - 4. That He is preparing a place for us right now.
- ii. **John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live."
  - 1. He said there is life after death.
  - 2. All we have to do is put our faith in Him to receive this life.
- iii. But if Jesus did not rise from the grave, then there is no life after death.
- iv. **1 Corinthians 15:17-19** "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone."
- v. But Jesus did rise from the grave.

1. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared 12 different times to more than 500 eye witnesses – both followers and skeptics – over a period of 40 days.
2. **Billy Graham** “There is more historical evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever existed or that Alexander the Great died at age 33, two “historical facts” that are taught boldly and without dispute in schools all across the world.”
- vi. We should worship Jesus. He has the power to give us eternal life!
- vii. This life may be hard, and unpleasant, and disappointing, and filled with grief, but this life is not the end. The best is yet to come. Christ is preparing a home for those who believe in His death and resurrection.

## V. HOW TO BE A WORSHIPER OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Since worship is the right response to the resurrection, let’s learn how to worship.
2. We often minimize worship to mean be singing, or attending a Sunday worship service. But there is more to worship than that. Worship is both an act (what we do on Sundays), and a lifestyle.
3. **Matthew 28:9** “They came up, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.”
  - i. **Draw near to Jesus**
    1. **Matthew 28:9** “They came up.”
      - a. They drew near Jesus.
      - b. They wanted to be close to Jesus.
    2. To be a worshiper is to draw near to Jesus. It is to seek to be as close to Jesus as possible.
    3. **James 4:8** “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”
      - a. Here is a command and a promise.
        - i. Command: Draw near to God. God wants you to be close to Him.
        - ii. Promise: God will draw near to you. God wants to be close to you. He wants to be as intimate with you as you will let him. But the ball is in your court. You are as close to God as you want to be.
    4. **Psalm 63:1** “God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you. I thirst for you; my body faints for you.”
      - a. To be a worshiper is to eagerly seek Jesus.
      - b. We are not trying to find Jesus. Jesus is not hiding. He is not playing Hide-and-Seek.
      - c. To seek Him is to seek nearness to Him. To seek an intimate, close relationship with Him.
  5. The act of worship is drawing near to God. We draw near through prayer and praise. When you pray and praise with sincerity, speaking to God in Jesus’ name, you are entering God’s presence.
  6. To be a worshiper is to seek this nearness at all times, not just in your quiet time; not just at church.

7. One of my favorite TV shows is “The Office.” The main two characters are Jim and Pam. Pam decides to go to school in New York for a few months, so while they are away they buy these tiny Blue Tooth ear buds, so small that no one can see. That way they can talk all day long and still be close.
8. In a sense that’s what worship is. It is seeking to be as close to Jesus as possible.

## ii. Desire Jesus.

1. **Matthew 28:9** “took hold of his feet”
  - a. They grabbed his feet. They hugged him at the ankles. They embraced him. They would have hugged him, but they were kneeling, so they embraced his feet.
  - b. This shows that they desired Jesus. They loved Him. He was foremost in their affections. That’s what it means to be a worshiper.
2. A worshiper is one who desires Jesus more than anything in the world. He is uppermost in your affections. You love Him more than anything or anyone else in the world. You desire to be close to Him, to please Him, to know Him, to serve Him, more than anything.
3. **Psalms 42:1** “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so I long for you, God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and appear before God?”
  - a. Imagine the thirst of a deer after he has just run for his life to escape the clutches of a lion. He is exhausted. He is thirsty.
  - b. That is the kind of hunger and thirst we are to have for Jesus. That is worship.
4. Jesus illustrated this desire in one of His parables.
  - a. **Matthew 13:44** “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.”
  - b. This man found some buried treasure. He desired it. How much? He sold everything he had and bought the field.
  - c. A worshiper is one who desires Jesus so much that he is willing to give up everything to gain Jesus; to lose everything to be closer to Jesus; to go through anything to please Jesus; to endure anything to serve Jesus.

## iii. Revere Jesus.

1. **Matthew 28:9** “took hold of his feet”
  - a. Why did they take hold of his feet? Because they were bowing to the ground. Why were they bowing on the ground? As an act of reverence. Deep respect.
  - b. The Greek word “worship” (Gk. *Proskyneo* – pros-koo-neh-o) literally means to prostrate oneself in homage.

- c. The Hebrew equivalent is *shahah*, means to bow down and worship.
  - d. What's the point of bowing down? Reverence. Deep respect.
- 2. To be a worshiper is to revere Jesus Christ. Worship and reverence go hand in hand. You cannot have worship without deep reverence.
- 3. The Bible calls this reverence for God "the fear of the Lord." A worshiper lives with the fear of the Lord.
- 4. The Bible repeatedly commands us to fear the Lord. **Deuteronomy 10:12** "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all his ways, to love him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul?"
- 5. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
  - a. It is a combination of deep respect, awe, and fear.
    - i. Deep respect because He is a good and righteous God.
    - ii. Awe (or amazement) because He is almighty God, creator, all-knowing, sovereign.
    - iii. Fear because God hates sin, and His eye is ever upon us to discipline us when necessary.
  - b. It's same type of fear that a child should have for her father. She has deep respect for him, because he is kind and loving. She is in awe of him because he is so big and strong and smart. And she fears him because he will spank her if she makes a bad choice.
- 6. What does it look like to be reverent, or fear the Lord, in our daily lives?
  - a. It means be constantly conscious that God is watching, and that God will hold you accountable for your actions.
- 7. Do you know what I noticed about kids? They behave so much better when I am watching than when I'm not watching. Why is that? Because they fear me.
- 8. When you fear God, constantly conscious that He is watching and that He will hold you accountable for your actions, it will change the way you live. You will find yourself with strength and motivation for the Christian life that you never knew you had.
- iv. **Surrender to Jesus.**
  - 1. **Matthew 28:9** "took hold of his feet"
    - a. The idea of bowing low in worship is not merely that of reverence, but also an act of submission.
    - b. Another Greek word for worship is *sebomai* (G4576), which has the adjectival sense of "devout."
    - c. A third Greek word for worship is *latreuo* (G3000), which means to serve.

- d. **Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary** "Reverent devotion and allegiance pledged to God; the rituals or ceremonies by which this reverence is expressed."
  - e. When the women bowed to the ground and took hold of His feet, they were surrendering to Him.
- 2. A worshiper is one who is fully surrendered to God's will; it one who is fully surrendered to God's service.
- 3. **Romans 12:1** "Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship."
  - a. True worship is not merely singing; it is not merely praying; it is not merely giving tithes and offerings; it is not merely communion; it is not merely attending a church service.
  - b. True worship is absolute surrender to God's will and service. It is saying, "God, Your will; Your way; Your plan; Your glory; Your purpose; Your mission; I am Yours."
- 4. One of my favorite hymns is "Have Thine Own Way."
  - a. "Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thing own way! Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still."
  - b. But many Christians have it backwards:
    - i. "I'll have my own way, Lord, I'll have my own way, I'll be the potter, You be the clay; I'll mold You and make You after my will, While You are waiting, yielded and still."
- 5. Lack of surrender is the reason so many Christians are missing out on the true joy and power of the Christian life.
  - a. They are Jesus fans, but not Jesus followers.
  - b. They love Savior Jesus, but they don't like Lord Jesus.
  - c. They want Jesus save them, but not to take control of their lives.
  - d. They want to avoid the punishment for sin, but they don't want to give up a life of sin.
- 6. **AW Tozer** "The reasons why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders, and interfering with God's work within us."
- 7. A true worship is one who is fully-surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

**v. Adore.**

- 1. **Matthew 28:9** "They came up, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him."
  - a. To word "worship" also means to adore. To praise.

2. A worshiper is one who adores God above all else; who fully and completely adores God. And this adoration comes out in their words and songs of praise and thanksgiving.
  - a. A true worshiper has nothing but affection and approval for God. He adores everything about God. He adores God's word. He adores God's rules. He adores God's ways. He adores God's blessings. He adores God's judgments. He adores God's creation. He adores God's discipline. He adores God's mercy.
3. A true worshiper puts everything God does in the best light. When something bad happens, the true worshiper says, "I don't know why God allowed this; but I know God is good; He has a good reason; and He is going to work it all out for our good and His glory."
4. A true worshiper adores God, and this adoration comes out in his words and songs.
5. **Colossians 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."
6. Some Christians come to church and while everyone else is singing to Jesus, they look bored to death. They look like they would rather be anywhere else but in church. They look like a fish out of water. Like they don't belong in a place of worship.
7. A true worshiper sings at the top of his lungs, with the great passion and energy, as if nobody is watching, "Great is Thy Faithfulness! Amazing Grace! Our God is an awesome God! You're a good, good Father!"
8. A true worshiper doesn't hide his affection for God, because he can't. It spills over, not just at church, but all day long. All day long he has an attitude of adoration, of praise, of thanksgiving for God's goodness and glory.

## VI. CONCLUSION

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in human history. It is the day we remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. There was a man named Jesus who claimed to be God. Then He predicted that He would die and three days later rise from the grave. And then He did it. He died for our sins on Friday, and then on Sunday He rose from the grave.
3. And how should we respond? Worship. We should be devoted, wholehearted worshipers of Jesus Christ.
4. How is your relationship with Jesus? Are you living a life of worship? Or has your love for Christ grown cold? Do you know Him? Are you sure You have been saved by Him?