

Matthew 28:1-20 ENCORE

- 1) How do you think Jesus' closest followers felt when He was crucified?
- 2) What happened that morning?
 - a) Matthew 28:1
 - b) Matthew 28:2a
 - c) Matthew 28:2b
 - d) Matthew 28:2c
- 3) What do you imagine the ladies were thinking now?
- 4) What happened to the guards (Matthew 28:4)?
- 5) What did the angel say (Matthew 28:5-7)?
- 6) How were they feeling now (Matthew 28:8)?
- 7) The ladies then met Jesus on the way (Matthew 28:9) how do you think they felt now?
- 8) What did the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ accomplish?
 - a) **Ephesians 2:1-2**
 - b) **Hebrews 2:14-15**
 - c) **1 Corinthians 15:54-55**
 - d) **1 Corinthians 15:20**
 - e) **Romans 6:23**
 - f) **Philippians 3:10**
 - g) **1 Peter 1:3-5**
- 9) How should you respond to the truth of the resurrection?
- 10) How does the command in (Matthew 28:19-20) relate to the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
- 11) Can you be a witness if you have never seen Jesus in person?
- 12) Discuss the following kinds of witness
 - a) Acts 4:18
 - b) Matthew 28:12-13
 - c) John 9:30-33
- 13) What is the significance of Jesus telling His followers to make disciples?
- 14) One of the greatest evidences for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the changed lives and attitudes of the twelve apostles; before the resurrection they left Jesus and ran off. One guy even ran off naked (Mark 14:52)! After the resurrection the apostles took the gospel to every corner of the known world and most died a martyr's (witness) death.
 - a) How can you be a better disciple this week?
 - b) How can you be a better witness this week?
 - c) How can you be a better disciple maker this week?

Matthew 5:13-48 LA

Monday (Matthew 5:13) "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." (NKJV) You are the salt of the earth. Salt was used as both a seasoning and a preservative. God has left His people here to influence and impact the culture we live in. We are not to become bland or to blend in with the culture and the world system; we are to be distinctly different. If God's people lose their particular "savor" or saltiness what good are we? Jesus says that we are accomplishing nothing or "good for nothing." Christian; what impact are you having on the world around you?

Tuesday (Matthew 5:14-16) You *are* the light of the world. Not; "you could be" or "you can be the light of the world", but you *are* the light of the world. You are the salt of the earth and you are the light of the world. This means many things to us. For one; this world is a dark wicked place. The lost people of this world are all in darkness and many of them love the darkness because their deeds are evil. This is a good verse to help us understand life in Christ and to examine our own lives. How lit is your corner of the world? When you think about your life; is your witness and life in Christ a blazing light to the glory of God, or is your life more of a tiny flickering candle? Another ramification of this passage is that people are watching you. How is the light in your corner of the world? Are people drawn to the light of Christ because of your life? Can people see clearly the glory of God in your life? "Let your light so shine" or live a life that shines brightly for God, so that others may glorify your Father in heaven.

Wednesday (Matthew 5:17-19) Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law. There is a common misconception that the New Testament has replaced the Old Testament. Some even make the distinction saying things like "well that was in the Old Testament." Jesus told us that He did not come to do away with any of the teachings of the Old Testament but to bring them to fulfillment. It is extremely interesting to me that Jesus put this passage about His fulfillment of the Old Testament right after the passage on Christians being the salt and light of the world. Being salt and light are much more than evangelism as we think of it. It is much more than sharing the gospel with unbelievers (though that is part of it). Being salt and light also means (to a large degree) obeying God's word.

Thursday (Matthew 5:20-28) Righteousness is a heart issue. "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Think about that awesome statement. The Pharisees were the most "righteous" people of that day. Everyone looked up to the Pharisees. Most people couldn't even imagine *attaining* to the righteousness of the Pharisees let alone exceeding their righteousness! Maybe it doesn't mean as much to us today because we don't understand the culture or religion as well as the people of Jesus' day but even to our limited understanding it is an awesome statement. Notice how the next thing Jesus talks about are interpersonal sins; "whoever is angry with his brother", "whoever says you fool", "first be reconciled", "agree with your adversary". Notice also that sin is not just what you do but what goes on in your heart. "whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Now here is the point: to be right with God you have to be more righteous than the most righteous religious person you can think of, then on top of that even the thoughts and intents of your heart condemn you before God. Now keeping all of that in mind how can any person be right with God? That was exactly the point Jesus was trying to make in this passage.

Friday (Matthew 5:29-30) This passage is what we call radical amputation. Of course amputation is always radical. Think of it like this; is there anything in your life that is hindering your walk with God? Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from doing God's will? Some things in our lives have us; we do not have them. We call things like those besetting sins or stumbling blocks. If there is something in your life that keeps leading you into sin; your computer or internet, your television, music, certain friends or anything at all, why is that thing still in your life? Jesus tells us it is time for some radical amputation – pluck out your very eye if it is causing you to stumble (don't literally do that please)! Toss out that tv or sell your computer; that is the first step of obedience.

Saturday (Matthew 5:31-48) God's ways are not our ways (normally). You could say; it is not normal to live the way God wants you to live. People tend to do their own thing while functionally ignoring God's will for them. People run to get divorced when marriage turns hard, people tend to make rash vows (which they have no power to keep) people feel justified to seek vengeance when they have been "wronged". We love those who love us and we hate those who we believe hate us, all of that is normal. Here's the thing: God calls Christians to a higher standard and a self-sacrificial way of life. It is not ok to act and live like every other unbeliever in this world "do not the tax collectors do the same?" How is the light doing in your corner of the world?