

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Good News
Confirmed

Speaker:

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Date:

December 21st, 2025

Scriptures:

Matthew 28:1–20

Theme: The good news is confirmed, how will you respond?

Introduction: Christmas is the perfect time to consider the story of Jesus in its fullness. Today, Jesus has not been outright denied as much as he has been repurposed. However, these adjustments are not rooted in reality; the message of Jesus in the Bible is one of exposing sin and rebellion and making a way for sinners to be right with God. Christmastime is wonderful because it is a celebration of the fact that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and the end of Matthew's gospel centers on the linchpin of the gospel: the resurrection.

Matthew 28 reveals three different responses to the resurrection:

1. Terror that comforts (1–10)

- The two Marys were the last at the tomb on Friday, and the first at the tomb on Sunday.
- An angel appears and causes the guards and the women to be afraid; he announces that Jesus has risen, evidenced by the promises given by Jesus and the empty tomb.
 - Two different outcomes result from the fear experienced: the guards were left in their terror, but the women respond with faith.
- Jesus calls for his brothers (the disciples) to meet him in Galilee.

2. Deception that destroys (11–15)

- The guards depart with the news that Jesus's body is gone, so they plot with the religious rulers to explain away what had happened.
- Ironically, the Jewish leaders bribe the soldiers to spread a story that they had originally been deployed to prevent (see Matt. 27:62).
- Ultimately, they are all trying to deny the undeniable, since to believe in Christ is simply belief in truth.

3. Obedience that emboldens (16–20)

- Meanwhile, Jesus appears to his disciples in Galilee, the same place where he began his ministry and preached the Sermon on the Mount.
- While some of the disciples believed, others were hesitant.
- Jesus makes three grand statements: (1) All authority is given to me, (2) Go and make disciples, and (3) I am with you always.

Questions:

1. How did the guards and the Marys respond to the glory of God? What is your response?
2. Where do you see the battle between belief and unbelief in the world? Where do you see it in your life?
3. How does the close of Matthew's gospel bring comfort to the Christian's soul?