

I. Jesus Is Crucified

- A. The whipping was part of the Roman process of crucifixion.
 1. The whole scene is a mock enthronement.
 2. This short segment by Matthew serves four purposes:
 - a) It provides a gentile counter part. Jews mocked in 26:67-68
 - b) To show detailed prediction of Jesus: *"Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead."* (Matthew 20:19, NLT)
 - c) To depict Jesus once more as the suffering servant. Is. 50:6
 - d) To allow/cause us as readers to think about the reality of Jesus Kingship - 28:18
 3. The last laugh....in spite of the humiliation of these soldiers to Jesus, He still remains and is King of the Jews! Savior! Son of God!
- B. The Cross
 1. "The ultimate explanation of the cross is neither Jewish hostility nor Roman injustice, but the declared purpose of God." France, R. T. (2007). NICNT (p. 1060). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
- C. Three parts of the section in Matthew.
 1. Crucifixion, 27:32-38
 - a) Ps 22 and Ps 69 OT passages that Matthew references.
 - b) King of the Jews sign vs. 37.
 - c) Jesus is more than likely taking Barabbas' place.
 2. The mockery 27:39-44
 - a) by the crowds passing by 39
 - b) by the religious leaders vs. 41
 - c) by the other revolutionaries. vs. 44
 - d) What they mock Jesus with is really true. Better to come up from a grave than to come down from a cross!
 3. The death 27:45-54
 - a) Jesus cries out Ps 22:1 My God my God why have you abandoned me?
 - b) The God forsakenness becomes the greatest pain of the cross! vs 46 It had to be that moment where Jesus experiences the missing Presence/separation because of God turning away from sin. The fact that Jesus cries out "My God" still declares His faith and commitment to the relationship. Cries out again and releases His spirit.
 - (1) curtain is torn from top to bottom. Sign of the end of the temple age and opening to God.
 - (2) earth shook - seems to shake in scripture every time God starts walking.
 - (3) rocks split

- (4) tombs opened and godly men and women were raised from the dead. After the resurrection went into Jerusalem and appeared to many people.
- (5) Roman soldier declares "This man truly was the Son of God!" vs 54 Another Matthew theme! This verse also serves to remind us that God children reaches beyond just the Jews. Mt 8:10 Centurion.

II. Jesus Buried and Raised 27:55-28:20

- A. Vs 55 and 56 served to close this section and set up the next. It is a bridge between death of Jesus and burial of Jesus.
 - 1. These women are important to the story because they are watching the whole ordeal.
 - 2. They are the guarantee that when the tomb is found empty that there is no mistake.
 - 3. They will also be the first to meet Jesus at the resurrection!
- B. Burial
 - 1. New Tomb
 - a) The women know which one.
 - b) There is no confusion about which whose body is in there. Many tombs held multiple bodies. A new tomb would not.
 - c) The women continue to watch. vs. 61
 - 2. Sealing of the tomb and placing of guard is mentioned only by Matthew. It adds to the dramatic effect of making 'foul play' impossible.
- C. The Resurrected Christ!
 - 1. All four Gospels give amazing amount of intriguing but also independent information about the tomb and resurrection. It is not an account of the Resurrection of Jesus but a demonstration that He has risen.
 - a) It was not important to any of the writers as to when and how He left. What mattered is that he was not there!
 - 2. All the Gospels stress the significance of the women being the first to make the discovery that He is not there.
 - a) They have watched closely the whole crucifixion and burial of Jesus as the guarantors of the reality of the resurrection.
 - b) The women are the first to tell the disciples that He is risen!
 - c) Matthew represents the women in the most obvious manner!
 - d) It is interesting that the angel totally ignores the guards to speak to the women. The women, unlike the guards have no need to be afraid.
 - e) Twice the women are reassured that everything is splendid! vs. 7 by the angel and vs 10 by Jesus himself!

- (1) Vs 7 raised from dead is literally raised from the corpses! Jesus is no longer a corpse! He doesn't belong with the dead.
 - (2) They see Jesus and fall and worship Him. The greeting used in this passage of Jesus to them is one of casual, friends greeting each other. You don't just offer casual politeness to someone raised from the dead...that calls for more and they worship. Their touching of Jesus confirms his physical existence, the reality of the resurrection Jesus.
 - (3) They have been given all the scripture all along but now they have new meaning. 16:21; 17:9, 23; 20:19; 26:32 (cf. also 27:63, 64).
 - (4) They are to remind the disciple of 26:32 Go to Galilee and I will meet you there.
3. Note the big new in vs. 10: "my brothers" Jesus calls the 11 failures, my brothers. Thus fulfilling his prophetic words of 26:31-32 you will be scattered, but in Galilee we will be family again!!!

D. The Mission

- 1. What began in Galilee now returns to finish and start here!
- 2. The message is no longer to the lost sheep of Israel but to the utter most parts of the earth.
- 3. "It is thus entirely appropriate that the last words of Jesus in this gospel, "I am with you all the time until the end of the age" echo the title with which he was first introduced in 1:23, "Immanuel—God with us." France, R. T. (2007). NICNT Matthew (p. 1108). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.
- 4. The book of Matthew is the unfolding revelation of the Son of God.
- 5. And it confirms God's ability to use unqualified people for the mission!