

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 26 ~ Exploring Chapter 27:45-28:20

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 27:45-28:20.
- Read Matthew chapters 27:45 to 28:20 two times; then respond to the following questions and exercises. Have your Matthew notebook handy.
 - Compare the four Gospels in their discussion of Jesus' death. Make four columns on a clean page in your Matthew notebook. List each element that Matthew contributes to our knowledge of that event. Then in the other three columns, list the information added to Matthew's account by the other evangelists.
- Re-read Matthew 27:62-28:15 and then respond to the following questions and exercises.
 - List the precautions taken regarding the safety of Jesus' tomb in 27:62-66.
 - Make a list of the various categories of people who had knowledge of these precautions.
 - Now list the events that took place on the resurrection morning in 28:1-15.
 - In light of the empty tomb, discuss what you believe might have been the actual effect of the precautions on the thinking of the various categories of people who had some knowledge of those precautions.
- Re-read Matthew 28:16-20 and then respond to the following questions and exercises.
 - Enumerate the elements in 28:16-20 that point to the divinity of Jesus and list the various elements in Jesus' great commission.
 - What are the implications of each element? In a paragraph or two, indicate the relationship between the resurrection event and the great commission.

Application

- Have you taken full advantage of the open pathway into the throne room of God provided by the death of Jesus and His ministry as my personal High Priest? In what ways have you taken full advantage of your privilege? In what ways could you enrich my experience?
- What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you? In what ways does it inform, energize, and direct your daily Christian walk and your eternal hope?
- Jesus' last words to you as an individual Christian in the first Gospel are found in the great commission. How can you apply the various commands and promises of that commission more fully in your daily experience? What specific activities would God like you to initiate or participate in as a response to Jesus' great sacrifice for you?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).