

John Wesley's Explanatory Notes - Matthew 28

by John Wesley

Jesus Christ commissions His disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them to obey His commands.

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10, Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-10, John 20:1-18

Topics: "Great Commission", "Resurrection"

Description

John Wesley expounds on Matthew 28, emphasizing the resurrection of Jesus and the angelic announcement to the women at the tomb. He highlights the significance of the angel rolling away the stone and the invitation to witness the empty grave, affirming the reality of Christ's resurrection. Wesley also notes the importance of Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations, underscoring the authority given to Him and the mission entrusted to His followers. He addresses the doubts surrounding the resurrection and the need for faith in the face of skepticism. Ultimately, Wesley calls believers to embrace their role in spreading the Gospel and to rejoice in the hope of the resurrection.

Transcript

XXVIII. 1. Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1; John 20:1

Verse 2. An angel of the Lord had rolled away the stone and sat upon it - St. Luke and St. John speak of two angels that appeared: but it seems as if only one of them had appeared sitting on the stone without the sepulchre, and then going into it, was seen with another angel, sitting, one where the head, the other where the feet of the body had lain.

Verse 6. Come, see the place where the Lord lay - Probably in speaking he rose up, and going before the women into the sepulchre, said, Come, see the place. This clearly reconciles what St. John relates, John 20:12, this being one of the two angels there mentioned.

Verse 7. There shall ye see him - In his solemn appearance to them all together. But their gracious Lord would not be absent so long: he appeared to them several times before then. Lo, I have told you - A solemn confirmation of what he had said.

Verse 9. Hail - The word in its primary sense means, "Rejoice:" in its secondary and more usual meaning, "Happiness attend you."

Verse 10. Go tell my brethren - I still own them as such, though they so lately disowned and forsook me.

Verse 13. Say, his disciples came by night, and stole him while we slept - Is it possible, that any man of sense should digest this poor, shallow inconsistency? If ye were awake, why did you let the disciples steal him? If asleep, how do you know they did?

Verse 16. To the mountain where Jesus had appointed them - This was probably Mount Tabor, where, (it is commonly supposed,) he had been before transfigured. It seems to have been here also, that he appeared to above five hundred brethren at once.

Verse 18. All power is given to me - Even as man. As God, he had all power from eternity.

Verse 19. Disciple all nations - Make them my disciples. This includes the whole design of Christ's commission. Baptizing and teaching are the two great branches of that general design. And these were to be determined by the circumstances of things; which made it necessary in baptizing adult Jews or heathens, to teach them before they were baptized; in discipling their children, to baptize them before they were taught; as the Jewish children in all ages were first circumcised, and after taught to do all God had commanded them. Mark 16:15.

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