

BYF - April 19, 2026
Resurrection Appearance #2: Matthew 28.16-20
Dr. Clay Brown, MDPC Adult Discipleship Pastor

1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Matthew 28.16-20 from both ESV and NLT [5 minutes].

2. Remind the class of insights from Matthew 28:1-10 [5 minutes].

3. Discuss Jesus' meeting with the eleven disciples on the mountain in Matthew 28.16-17 [10 minutes].

- Choice of mountain for meeting place continues long-standing connection of Jesus with Moses as described through Matthew, Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Jesus chooses specific mountain in Galilee: 1) most of disciples' home base; 2) part of His plan for preparing and empowering them for next phase of their ministry
- Mountains in Matthew all unnamed, from Sermon on the Mount to Transfiguration to Great Commission: Why? Possibly to avoid idolatrous worship at identified sites
- Verse 17 most curious: disciples worship Jesus, yet doubt at the same time
 - Word translated "doubt" occurs in Matthew 14.31 as Peter walks on water
 - Specific nature of doubt not mentioned
 - Very human and normal to doubt in the midst of the miracle.
 - From Dale Bruner, *Matthew: A Commentary*: "Christians are both believers and doubters, adoring and wondering, trusting and questioning. Is it not refreshing that Matthew admits this? All disciples experience this bipolarity, and it is not healthy to deny it. The good news of the Great Commission is that Jesus addresses and uses exactly such worshipping-doubting disciples. When Jesus here does not correct, exorcise, or otherwise attack this doubt, but quietly overlooks it (almost as if it is normal) and gives the Great Commission instead, he teaches disciples that they will win their war with doubt simply by obeying his mission command."
- Human response of disciples to presence of risen Christ one more affirmation that Scripture is truthful about events it describes
- ***"How has doubt played a role, for good or ill (or both) in your Christian growth and maturity? How is it playing a role right now?"***

4. Discuss Jesus' "Great Commission" for the disciples in Matthew 28.18-20a [15 minutes].

- Starts with Jesus' statement about His intrinsic, explicit authority over all life and creation: builds on this sense of authority: because Jesus possesses authority, then He may command what He commands and promise what He promises
- Two-part set of instructions comprise the remainder of the commission:

- Go to all peoples and be about the primary task of making disciples: verb of movement is a strong one (Dale Bruner: “move out”, deploy)
- Do this disciple-making work with two primary actions as you move out: 1) baptizing in the name of Triune God; 2) teaching the baptized ones to obey Jesus’ commands for faith and practice, as Jesus Himself taught to them
- Another way to understand: look at the “alls”
 - All authority by Jesus: his Kingship and Lordship over everyone and everything
 - All nations/peoples: no nation or people left out of the opportunity to become Jesus’ disciples. See the fulfilling of the Abrahamic covenant in Genesis 12.1-3
 - All of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and not some reduced or truncated deity
 - All commands from Jesus: What would you include? Sermon on the Mount, other examples from Matthew just to get us started. But other commands from Scripture both OT and NT, like Ephesians 2.8-10 and the Great Commandment (can argue that Matthew is written much like a manual to instruct disciples in the commands they are to teach as they go)
 - All of the age: until the world is brought to its completion and restoration by King Jesus in the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21)
- Note expansion of work as compared to Moses’ commission of Joshua. This is a world-wide, global, centuries-long commission. Every follower of Jesus is to have a part of it. It’s the Christian “main thing to always keep the main thing”
- ***“Talk about the primary task in the Great Commission. What is it? Where is it done? How is this task to be accomplished, according to Jesus?”***

5. Discuss Jesus’ final assurance in Matthew 28.20b [10 minutes].

- Great Commission work: difficult, demanding, dangerous to a degree disciples cannot yet fathom
- But when bad times come, disciples are to remember Jesus expressly promises to be with them
- “End of the age” (NLT and ESV): when Jesus returns to put things right and to restore creation to its original state and purpose; “new heaven and new earth”
- Through the Spirit, Jesus will lead them, guide them, and give them power as they lead people into relationship with Him
- ***“Jesus promises to be with His disciples as they engage in the Great Commission. When have you seen Jesus show up as you are involved in this work? Give at least one specific example from your experience.”***

6. Close in prayer.