

When God Opens What We Try to Seal

Matthew 27:57–28:11

I. Introduction

- A. Read passage, pray
- B. Review: The Crucifixion

II. The Human Response to Jesus' Death

- A. When Everything Looks Final, Faith Stays Near (27:57–61)
 - 1. Joseph's costly devotion fulfills **Isaiah 53:9**.
 - 2. The women remain near the tomb, modeling persevering love.
- B. When Fear Takes Over, We Try to Control What Only God Can Control (27:62–66)
 - 1. The leaders remember Jesus' words but resist them.
 - 2. Their behavior mirrors Pharaoh's hardened heart in (**Exodus 14:5–9**).

III. God's Response to Jesus' Death: The Resurrection

- A. When Heaven Moves, No Power on Earth Can Stop It (28:1–7)
 - 1. God has already acted before the women arrive.
 - 2. Earthquake and angelic revelation overturn human power.
 - 3. The resurrection echoes **Hosea 6:2** and signals new creation.
 - 4. Do not confuse God's silence for God's inaction. While you're walking toward what feels like a sealed tomb, God may already be overturning the very things you fear.
- B. When the Risen Christ Meets You, Fear Turns to Worship and Witness (28:8–10)
 - 1. The women respond with fear and great joy.

2. They take hold of Jesus' feet: a physical, real resurrection.
3. This moment embodies the hope of **Psalm 16:10**.
4. A real encounter with the risen Jesus always moves us outward: if fear has you frozen, ask whether you've forgotten the One who stands with pierced feet in front of you.

IV. When the Truth Threatens Us, We May Choose Suppression Instead of Surrender (28:11)

- A. The guards report truthfully.
- B. The chief priests suppress truth knowingly (judicial hardening) (**Isaiah 6:8-12; Matthew 12:22-32**).

When fear drives us, we stop listening to God and start trying to manage outcomes He alone controls. Watch where fear is making you grasp for control; that grasping is often where spiritual blindness begins

Conclusion:

We face the resurrection either with the women (faithful surrender) or with the priests (fearful suppression). God has opened what human power sealed; your response reveals your kingdom.