

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.