

MATTHEW



Lesson 8 Matthew 28:1-20

THE King is Alive!

1. Come and See

a. Are you resisting the facts? (Luke 11:9-13)

b. Are you overwhelmed by your feelings? (Ephesians 1:15-21)

2. Go and Tell

a. Do you doubt his authority?

b. Do you doubt your ability?

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Are you resisting the facts?

- Gary Habermas: Online Resource for the Resurrection - <https://www.garyhabermas.com/>
- Lee Strobel: The Case for Christ - <https://leestrobel.com/books>
 - Movie: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6113488/>
- The Skeptics Prayer:
 - “Dear Jesus, I have so many questions, doubts, and even fears in my life today. I’m not even sure if you are real, but if you are, please show me who you are. Would you make yourself and your truth known to me and confirm it in my heart? Thank you for hearing my prayer.”

Are you overwhelmed by your feelings?

- Consider setting aside an hour or two for a prayer retreat between now and Easter. Write out, read and pray / journal through Ephesians 1:15-21.
 - (15-17) Father: would you give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you?
 - Reflect: Where (in what situations) do I lack wisdom?
 - Reflect: Where (in what situations) do I lack understanding?
 - (v 18) Spirit: would you reveal places where my heart and my understanding may be darkened and need to be enlightened?
 - Reflect: Where (in what situations), do I need to be enlightened to know the hope to which God has called me?
 - Reflect: Where (in what situations), do I need to understand the riches of my inheritance as a child of God?
 - (v 19-21) Spirit: would you help me to grasp the power you are offering to me?
 - Reflect: Whose (or what) rule, authority, power and dominion am I afraid of? List the “enemies” you are facing and write “Jesus” above them! He has authority over each one.
 - Pray: Spirit, would you help me grasp the power you make available to all who believe?
 - Spend time listening to worship songs.

Do you doubt his authority?

- Keep reading the Bible (<https://northview.org/bible-reading-plan/>)
- and perhaps JI Packer’s book: Knowing God.
 - *“The Christian’s instincts of trust and worship are stimulated very powerfully by knowledge of the greatness of God. But this is knowledge which Christians today largely lack: and that is one reason why our faith is so feeble and our worship so flabby. We are modern people, and modern people, though they cherish great thoughts of themselves, have as a rule small thoughts of God.”* Knowing God, p 83
- Do you doubt the goodness of his rule & reign? Sociologists have studied the early church & modern church: Rodney Stark - The Rise of Christianity, Nancy Pearcey - The Toxic War on Masculinity.

Do you doubt your ability?

- Reflect: Where has God placed me? Who are “my people”?
- Start with prayer: You can download the Northview Prayer Cards here: <https://northview.org/5x5x5/>
- Make a plan: (Set times to get together, opportunities to build relationships)
- Embrace the practice. Expect to stumble and fall and practice and learn.
 - Gregory Koukl book: Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions