

# He Is Risen: The Great Commission

*Matthew 28*

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## What We Found

- He has risen, as he said: the sign of Jonah, the only sign promised, paid in full on the third day. The first witnesses were women, a detail no inventor would choose, and the risen Lord met them on the road, and they took hold of his feet, a body they could grasp, and worshiped him.
- The guards' bribe is the oldest objection, and it concedes the decisive fact: the tomb was empty, and both sides knew it. Men die for false beliefs sincerely held; they do not die for what they know they invented.
- All authority in heaven and on earth: Daniel 7 fulfilled, the Son of man enthroned. All nations: Genesis 22 kept, Abraham's promise become the Church's marching orders. One name, three Persons, over every baptism. All that I have commanded, handed on as the Church's curriculum.
- The Gospel's last sentence answers its first chapter: Emmanuel, God with us... I am with you always, to the close of the age. Matthew ends with no departure, only a presence that never leaves. That was the study's title, and the Gospel's master key, all along.
- Where does the presence live now? In the Church built on the rock, in the least of these, and above all on the altar: the tabernacle lamp is Matthew 28:20 burning in real time.

## Voices of the Church

### Voices of the Church: St. Athanasius (On the Incarnation)

The surest proof of the resurrection is its ongoing effect: death, once mankind's tyrant, is trampled and mocked by Christians who face it without fear. A dead man works no such change.

### Voices of the Church: St. John Chrysostom (Homilies on Matthew)

"I am with you always" was not spoken to the apostles alone, for they would not remain until the close of the age: the Lord speaks to the whole body of the faithful in every generation, one Church accompanied by her Head until the end.

### Voices of the Church: St. Augustine (Expositions of the Psalms)

It is no great thing to believe that Christ died; the pagans and the wicked believe that too. The faith of Christians is the resurrection of Christ. That he rose is the Church's own treasure and the hinge of everything, and our faith stands with the empty tomb.

## Live It: The Commission at Your Size

- Visit the Blessed Sacrament once this week and pray Matthew 28:20 there: the promise, kept, in the room with you.
- Tell one person outside this group one thing you found in this Gospel.
- Keep both versions of your guess inside your Bible at Matthew 16, and read them again in a year.

## Scripture Memory

**Matthew 28:20b (RSV2CE):** “...and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

## Where to Go from Here

Matthew ends with the Church sent; the Acts of the Apostles begins with the Church going. Consider Acts, or a Gospel with a different voice (John), as your next companion. And whatever you read next, keep the method this study taught you: the new Gospel with the old Scriptures open beside it, like a scribe trained for the kingdom, bringing out treasure new and old.

## Catechism References

CCC 641-644 · CCC 645, 656 · CCC 849-850