

SING TO THE KING

Matthew 28.1-10, 16-20

*“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. ‘Greetings,’ he said. **They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.** Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’*

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, **they worshiped him**; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*
Matthew 28.8-10, 16-20

One of the great tragedies of the human race is that we were made to find infinite joy by admiring God, but have so very often substituted less than satisfactory alternatives. We have spent a great amount of energy and time and money seeking out things to satisfy our insatiable craving to admire greatness and beauty. The irony of our human condition (and nobody is an exception) is that God put us within sight of what is needed to fill that vacuum.

More often than not, we have not fully seen the risen Christ for who he really is. If we could keep in view the risen Christ as he really is, our bottomless appetite for beauty and greatness and wonder would find satisfaction.

The last chapter of Matthew is a window that opens onto the glory of the risen Christ. Through it you can see at least three components of Christ's character, while he appears on two occasions after his resurrection.

It seems clear that what Matthew wants to say is that the proper response to the risen Christ is worship. Matthew has opened a window onto the glory of the risen Christ, and he means for it to be a window of worship.

“The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’

*Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: **“Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”**’”* Matthew 4.8-10

Now what do we see in Christ's character that should fill us with admiration and worship?

The first thing we see is his position of **preeminence**.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” Matthew 28.18

Matthew 24.30-31; 25.31; 26.52-53; 2 Thessalonians 1.6-10; 1 Peter 3.21-22

The second thing we see is his **gentleness**.

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’” Matthew 28.10

Isaiah 40.1-11

Finally, we see in the risen Christ a clear sense of his **purpose and goal**.

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore** go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Matthew 28.18-20