

# WORSHIP THE RISEN CHRIST

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 28.1-10, 16-20

In the last chapter of Matthew, it seems clear that what he 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. Don't miss how astonishing this is! Recall how Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness three years earlier.

*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

Matthew means for chapter 28 to be a window onto the glory of the risen Christ; and he aims for it to be a window of worship. Now what do we see in Christ's character that should fill us with admiration and worship?

The first thing we see is the **peak of power**.

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."* Matthew 28.18

Consider some Biblical images of the risen Christ and his angels and let them shape your mental pictures.

Matthew 24.30-31; 25.31; 26.52-53

*God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.* 2 Thessalonians 1.6-10

*It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.* 1 Peter 3.21-22

The second peak in the mountain range of Christ's glory that we see through the window of Matthew 28 is the peak of his **kindness**.

*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

*'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'* Matthew 28.20

And now finally we see through the window of Matthew 28 the peak of his **purposefulness**. In order to admire and worship the risen Christ we have to see that his power and kindness have 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