

Matthew 28 Study Guide (NKJV)

Scriptures in Study Guide:

To coincide with our John study, this week's study guide will give a more "in-depth" view from Matthew's witness account. Matthew is one of the 3 "synoptic" gospels. Synoptic means that these 3 gospels share similar events. As we've discussed in Sunday school, the gospel of John is set apart in that he records events that not only build upon what the synoptic gospels have shared years before, but also highlights those physical events when Jesus walked this earth that testified to Him being Deity (God); John 20:31. The gospel, itself, was written by the apostle Matthew and is a witness account. He was a former tax collector who Jesus called to be one of His apostles. This week we will look at Matthew being called as well as what Matthew records about Jesus following His crucifixion.

If you have any questions, write them down and ask me when we meet Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. :)

Day 1 - you will use your own Bible for today's study

Today, we will focus on the conversion of the physical author of Matthew (also known as "Levi"). His conversion is recorded in all 3 synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) following Jesus' healing of a paralyzed man. After Matthew leaves all to follow Jesus, the 3 synoptic gospels also record a controversial feast that he holds in his home. These details further testify that Matthew is who he says he is and that these events actually did happen. Even though we are only looking at Matthew's conversation verses within these 3 gospels, it would be beneficial to read over the verses before and after to further solidify your knowledge of the authenticity of the Scriptures. :)

Matthew 9:9:

- As _____ went on from there, he saw a man named _____ sitting at the tax collector's booth.
- Jesus said to Matthew, " _____ me," he told him
- When Jesus said to him, "Follow me,," Matthew _____ up and followed him.

Mark 2:14:

- As He passed by, He saw _____ the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office.
- As Jesus passed by Levi, the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office, Jesus said to him, " _____ Me."
- So he _____ and followed Him.

Luke 5:27-28:

- After these things He _____ out and saw a _____ collector named Levi.
- The tax collector named Levi was sitting at the _____ office.
- When Jesus saw the tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, He said to him, " _____ Me."
- When Jesus said to Levi to "Follow Me.," he left _____ , rose up, and followed Him.

Questions:

- In these 3 accounts, where was Matthew (Levi) sitting at when Jesus said to "follow" Him?

- If Matthew was sitting at the tax collector's booth/tax office, what do you think his job was?

- In Matthew 10:3, how did Matthew describe himself? "Matthew, the _____."
- In Luke's account of Matthew's (Levi's) conversion, how much did he leave? (See **Luke 5:28**)

So yesterday you studied about the conversion of Matthew (Levi), the tax collector. If we look at the other 2 synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke), we will note that only Matthew's gospel add that he was "the tax collector". During that time period, a tax collector who was Jewish was seen as a "traitor" since he was working for Rome and making money at the expense of their Jewish brethren. Matthew (who most likely changed his name from Levi to Matthew when he was converted like Saul did to Paul), never forgot how he was a sinner saved by grace. It was only by God's mercy that this "tax collector" could be saved. Today, we will begin our look at Matthew's account of what happened after Jesus' resurrection.

Day 2 - Read Matthew 28: 1-6 out loud and complete verses:

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. **2** And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone [a]from the door, and sat on it. **3** His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. **4** And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*. **5** But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:1:

- Now _____ the Sabbath, as the _____ day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the _____.
- **Question:** Who are the 2 people Matthew is recording that came to the tomb? _____

Matthew 28:2:

- And behold, there was a great _____;
- The great earthquake happened for an _____ of the Lord _____ from heaven.
- When an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and the great earthquake happened, it rolled back the _____ from the door, and sat on it.
- **Questions:**
 - Since there are 2 women coming to the tomb, why do you think it would be needed for this "stone" to be rolled from the door?
 - Who was sitting on the stone after it was rolled away from the door? _____

Matthew 28:3-4:

- His countenance was like _____, and his clothing as _____ as snow.
- And the guards shook for _____ of him, and became like _____ men.

Matthew 28:5-6:

- But the angel answered and said to the _____, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you _____ Jesus who was _____.
- The angel told the women who were seeking Jesus who was crucified that He is _____ here; for He is _____,
- The angel told the women that Jesus was not in the tomb for "He is risen" just as _____ said.
- The angel invites the women into the tomb to "Come, see the place where the _____ lay.
- **Question:** why do you think the angel invites the women to come and see where Jesus was laying?

Day 3 - Read Matthew 28: 7-10 out loud and complete verses:

7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” **8** So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. **9** And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Matthew 28:7:

- And go _____ and tell His _____ that He is risen from the _____,
- The angel told the women to tell Jesus’ disciples that indeed He is going before you into _____; there you will _____ Him.
- The angel tells the women, _____, I have told you.”
- **Question:** who did the angel tell the women that they were to tell about Jesus being risen from the dead and that He is going before them into Galilee? _____.

Matthew 28:8:

- So they went out _____ from the tomb with fear and _____ joy,
- With fear and great joy, the women ran to bring His _____ word.
- **Questions:**
 - Why do you think it means that these women went out with “fear and great joy”? _____.
 - What was the physical demonstration of both of these women’s belief that what the angel was telling them about Jesus was true? (Hint: what did they do?) _____

Matthew 28:9:

- And _____ they went to _____ His disciples, behold, _____ met them
- When Jesus met these women on the way to telling His disciples, Jesus was saying, “_____!”
- So the women came and _____ Him by the feet and _____ Him.
- **Question:** what happened to these women as a result of their obeying God’s instructions through the angel? _____

Matthew 28:10:

- Then Jesus said to them, “Do _____ be afraid.
- After Jesus told them to not be afraid, He told them to “Go and _____ My brethren to _____ to Galilee, and _____ they will see Me.”
- **Question:** where did Jesus and the angel instruct the women to tell His ’disciples where they needed to go to see Jesus? _____

Day 4 -Read Matthew 28: 11-15 out loud and complete verses:

11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. **12** When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, **13** saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’ **14** And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.” **15** So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Matthew 28:11:

- Now while they were _____, behold, some of the _____ came into the city
- Question: who are “they”? (Hint: look at Matthew 28:1) _____
- At the same time that the women left the tomb to go tell Jesus’ disciples about all that they had seen and heard, some of the Roman guard went into the city and _____ to the chief priests all the things that had _____.
- **Question:** why do you think some of the Roman guard reported the things that had happened to the chief priests? _____

Matthew 28:12:

- When they (the chief priests) had assembled with the _____ and consulted _____, they gave a large sum of _____ to the soldiers.

Matthew 28:13-14:

- The chief priests and the elders gave a large sum of money to the soldiers as they said, “Tell them, ‘His _____ came at night and _____ Him away while we _____.’”
- And if this comes to the _____ ears, we will appease him and make you _____.”
- Who was the governor at this time? (**See John 18:28-19**) _____

Matthew 28:15:

- So they (the Roman guards) took the _____ and did as they were _____
- Since the Roman guards lied that the disciples stole Jesus’ body away at night while the guards slept, this saying is _____ reported among the _____ until this day.

Note:

If we look at this fabricated claim of the chief priests and the elders in light of the rest of the people and laws involved, it is easily seen that this claim of the “His disciples stealing His body” could never be possible.

1. These guards were hardened Roman guards. There were 4 at the tomb (3 would always sleep as one watched). If they did perpetuate this lie, one would have to be “guilty” of sleeping (by Roman law) and as a result, executed. It says that “some” went so it may be that there was still a penalty.
2. The governor was Pilate and we know from Scriptures before this that Pilate and these chief priests did not like each other. Pilate wouldn’t even change what he put on the sign over Jesus’ head.
3. These disciples are in hiding when the women get to them. If they would steal Jesus’ body, why would they be surprised by what the women told them? (**See Luke 24:11**)
4. How could the disciples, who all scattered and went into hiding, move the stone from the opening of the tomb without alerting any of the 4 guards that were at the tomb?
5. The disciples initially have trouble believing that Jesus has risen (demonstrated by running to the tomb to see and Thomas wanting to touch Jesus’ nail wounds and side). (**See John 20:3-9, John 20:24**)
6. Ten of the apostles (John was beaten and exiled to Patmos at the end of his life) were all martyred for the faith. Why would they not produce Jesus’ body to avoid persecution? (**See Acts 5:28-32**)

Day 5 -Read Matthew 28: 16-20 out loud and complete verses:

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. **17** When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 28:16:

- Then the _____ disciples went away into _____
- The eleven disciples went away into Galilee to the _____ which Jesus had _____ for them.
- **Questions:**
 - What did the women tell the disciples? (See Matthew 28:7 and Matthew 28:10) _____.
 - Did the disciples believe what the women told them? _____.
 - How do you know the disciples believed what the women told them? _____.

Matthew 28:17:

- When they _____ Him, they _____ Him
- but some _____.
- **Question:** Why do you think that some worshipped Jesus while others doubted? _____

- Write out **John 20:27:**

Matthew 28:18:

- And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "_____ authority has been _____ to Me in heaven and on _____.
- Question: how much authority does Jesus have in heaven and on earth? _____.

Matthew 28:19-20

- Since Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, He tells His disciples to:
 - Go therefore and make _____ of _____ the nations
 - baptizing them in the name of the _____ and of the Son and of the _____ Spirit,
 - _____ them to _____ all things that I (Jesus) have _____ you
- and lo, I (Jesus) am with you _____, *even* to the end of the _____." Amen*.
 - *Amen means "let it be".

These **last 2 verses of Matthew 28** are known as the "Great Commission". These are our final orders from Jesus to all believers. What, in **Matthew 28:19-20**, are we all commanded to do?
