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Inner Growth - Jesus 17

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

Journey - Luke 9:3

Enlighten - Job 33:30

Saves - Psalms 18:31, 1 Timothy 1:15

Unity - Ephesians 4:13

Sinners - Luke 5:32

In Matthew twenty-eight, verses one through ten begin with the resurrection of Jesus in verse six, with He is risen. The resurrection of Jesus is one of the central truths of the gospel, as in First Corinthians five, verses one to eight. What is the importance of Christ's resurrection to those who believe in Him? It proves He is the Son of God, as in John ten, verses seventeen through eighteen, and Romans one, verse four. It guarantees the efficacy of His redemptive death, as in Romans six, verse four, and First Corinthians fifteen, verse seventeen. It verifies the truth of the scripture, as in Psalms sixteen, verse ten, Luke twenty-four, verses forty-four to forty-seven, and Acts two, verse thirty-one. It is proof of future judgment to the wicked, as in Acts seventeen, verses thirty through thirty-one. It is the foundation for Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit and spiritual life to

the people as in John twenty, verse twenty-two, Romans five, verse ten, and First Corinthians fifteen, verse forty-five, and for His heavenly ministry of intercession for the believer, as in Hebrews seven, verses twenty-three through twenty-eight. It assures believers of their future heavenly inheritance, as in First Peter one, verses three to four, and their resurrection or translation when the Lord returns. It makes ready for the presence of Christ and His power over sin in our everyday experience, as in Galatians two, verse twenty, and Ephesians one, verses eighteen through twenty.

The Resurrection of Jesus continues in verse nine, where He met the disciples. After the resurrection, Christ remained on the earth for forty days, appearing and talking to the apostles and many of His followers. The resurrection appearance begins with Mary Magdalene, as in John twenty, verses eleven through eighteen, to the women returning from the tomb, verses nine to ten, to Peter in Luke twenty-four, verse thirty-four, to the two travelers on the Emmaus road, as in Luke twenty-four, verses thirteen through thirty-two, to all the disciples except Thomas, and others with them, as in Luke twenty-four, verses thirty-six through forty-three, to all the disciples on Sunday night one week later, as in John twenty, verses twenty-six to thirty-one, to the seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee, as in John twenty-one, verses one through twenty-five, to five hundred people in Galilee in verses sixteen to twenty with First Corinthians fifteen, verse six, to James in First Corinthians fifteen, verse seven, to the disciples receiving the Great Commission, as in verses sixteen through twenty, to the apostles at the ascension, as in Acts one, verses three to eleven, to the apostle Paul, as in First Corinthians fifteen, verse eight.

Jesus says in verse ten of Matthew twenty, Be not afraid. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were not fearful because they sought Jesus. The women had remained loyal friends of Jesus when the world despised and crucified Him. At Christ's return, His faithful will have no reason to fear if they have remained loyal to Him amid the world that rejects His love, salvation, and holy Word. In First John two verse twenty-eight, "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

Jesus speaks in verse eighteen in the Great Commission section concerning God's people of the promise of authority and power to proclaim the gospel throughout the world, as in verses nineteen to twenty. But they first must obey Jesus' command to wait for the promise of the Father, which is the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We cannot expect the power of Acts one, verse eight to accompany our going to the nations without following the pattern of Acts one, verse four.

Jesus continues to speak in verse nineteen of Matthew twenty-eight of the Great Commission to all His followers of every generation. He states the church's missionary task is the goal, responsibility, and commissioning. The church is to go into the world and preach the gospel to all people as the New Testament revelation of Christ and the apostles declares. This task includes sending missionaries to every nation, as in Acts thirteen, verses one to four.

The preaching of the gospel centers on "repentance and remission or forgiveness of sins," as in Luke twenty-four, verse forty-seven, the promise of receiving "the gift of the Holy Ghost," as in Acts two, verse thirty-eight, and warning to separate from this corrupt generation, as in Acts two, verse forty, while waiting for the

return of Jesus from heaven, as in Acts three, verses nineteen through twenty, and First Thessalonians one verse ten.

The purpose is to make disciples, not just converts, who will observe Christ's commands, which is the only direct imperative in this passage. Christ does not intend evangelism and missionary witness to result only in conversion decisions. The church must not concentrate on merely enlarging church membership but on making disciples who separate themselves from the world, observe the commands of Christ, and follow Him with all their hearts, minds, and wills, as in John eight, verse thirty-one. Furthermore, Christ commands us to concentrate on reaching lost men and women, not Christianizing society or taking over the world. Those who believe must come out of the current evil world system and separate from its immorality, as in Romans thirteen, verse twelve, and Second Corinthians six, verse fourteen.

Those who believe in Christ and the gospel get baptized with water. The representation of their covenant pledge to renounce immorality, the world, and their sinful nature and to unreservedly commit ourselves to Christ and His kingdom purposes. Christ will be with His obedient followers in the presence of the power of the Holy Spirit, as in verse twenty, chapter one, verse twenty-three, chapter eighteen, verse twenty. Followers of Christ are to go to all nations and witness after they are "endowed with power from on high," as in Luke twenty-four, verse forty-nine.

Jesus promised that His presence and authority would be with all believers who go forth to "teach all nations." Jesus is present with us in the person of the Holy Spirit, as in John fourteen, verses sixteen and twenty-six, and through His Word, as in John fourteen, verse twenty-three. No matter what your condition is: weak, poor, humble, apparently unimportant, He cares for you, watches with concern every detail

of life's trials and struggles, and gives both sufficient grace, as in Second Corinthians twelve, verse nine, and His presence to lead you home, as in Matthew eighteen, verse twenty, and Acts eighteen, verse ten. The grace of God is the Christian's answer to every fear, every doubt, every heartache, and every discouragement.