

## Digging Deeper

**Series:** Easter, 2008  
**Sermon:** Reactions to the Resurrection  
**Scripture:** Matthew 28:1-15



### GETTING STARTED

Which of the following images do you think most people you know outside of church usually associate with Easter?

- Easter Eggs/Easter Bunny
- Family Dinner
- Easter Clothes
- Resurrection of Jesus Christ

### BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Matthew 28:1-4 (preferably in more than one translation). What words are used to describe the emotional reaction of the guards in these verses?
  - How does this illustrate that a purely emotional reaction to the Gospel message doesn't always translate into saving faith?
2. Matthew 28:5 tells us that the women were also shaken when they arrived at the tomb. How does the "fear" experienced by these women compare with the fear of the guards?
3. Jesus, on several occasions recorded in Scripture, warned His disciples of His impending arrest and crucifixion (Matthew 16:21; Matthew 17:22-23; Matthew 20:18-19). Why do you think He did that?
4. When Jesus encountered these women (Matthew 20:8-10), what instructions did He give them?
  - What is significant about the fact that Jesus called the disciples "my brothers" in verse 10)?
5. Read Matthew 28:11-15. What reasons did Pastor Paul suggest for the Roman guards going to the Jewish religious authorities instead of the Roman authorities after the tomb was found empty?
  - How does this illustrate the shortcomings of those who rely on religious practices, ceremonies or rituals for their faith rather than relying on a relationship with Jesus Christ?

### APPLY IT

Prayerfully consider the difference the resurrection of Jesus Christ makes in your life. What is your typical reaction to the Good News that *He is not here; He is risen, just as He said?*