

Matthew 28 – Let's Find Some Easter Eggs?

Have you ever heard of “Easter eggs” being hidden within certain movies?

An Easter egg is a reference/image that points to a movie's prequel or sequel. It reveals a part of the origin story, or it points to what's to come in the future.

Matthew 28 is filled with Easter eggs, & we are going on an egg hunt today!

The saying may go, “the devil is in the details”, but he has no say in this story today! He had his day on Friday, but this resurrection day, belongs to Jesus!

The glorious plan of God is in the details of the resurrection story! Let's go!

Egg #1 – “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb” - Vs. 1.

This Easter egg, points both back to the original prequel, the origin story of all stories - Genesis 1, and it also points forward to what was yet to come.

“Sabbath” looks back & reminds us of the 6 days that God did the work of creation, & how He rested on the 7th day! But God was far from done. After the 7th day, He went back to work, b/c there was still more work to do!

The earthly Sabbath was never intended to be an ending, it was simply a day of pause, with the intent of starting again, with day 1, after a time of rest.

For these two women, in Matt. 18, the time for resting had passed! Little did they know that that was true for Jesus on this day as well!

After Jesus' Sabbath rest in the grave, He rose from the dead. Then He went back to work, but now doing a work of recreation & making all things new!

And what was the sequel to this story that this egg points to? From this day forward, those who followed Jesus would set aside the 1st day of the week, instead of the last, as a day Holy to the Lord, for it's the day He rose again!

Egg #2 – (Vs. 2-5) The angel of the Lord appeared to them & declared “Do not be afraid” and then He revealed to them where they would find Jesus!

Sound familiar? It's a recreation of Luke 2 when Jesus first came into the world!

The message of the angel of the Lord in Luke 2 - “Do not be afraid, I bring you...” This message is realized in Matthew 28, when salvation is secured!

The shepherds would go on to find Jesus in Bethlehem. These women, and the disciples with them, would go on and find Jesus alive in Galilee.

Egg #3 – It is interesting that Galilee would be the place where Jesus would choose to meet them for the first time after His resurrection.

Can anyone make the connection? Galilee is where Jesus first started His earthly ministry & when He first called His disciples to follow Him (Matthew 4).

Jesus has His disciples go back to the beginning & meet Him in the very place where He first said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!” It's there that Jesus would now make that 1st declaration His final marching orders.

Egg #4 - This a plastic egg with something desirable inside - money (Vs. 11-13).

This should remind us of how the chief priests had continually tried to get rid of Jesus by throwing money at people who could help serve their cause.

They paid off the soldiers just like they paid off Judas, yet their ploys were all for not because no amount of money can stop the advancement of the gospel.

Kids, if you get any Easter eggs today with money in it, give it back and say “I choose the Kingdom of God over money!” Matthew 19:24, Matthew 6:24

Egg #5 – “And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day” – Vs. 15.

The sequel story for the Jews, is that they are still waiting for the Messiah! What a tragedy that the greatest news in history has been rejected because of a lie that was spread by a few people who were desperate to stay in power!

This begs the question, *What about us?* What story do we believe about Jesus? Even some of the disciples doubted (vs. 17), until further investigation!

If you are unsure where you stand, follow the Easter eggs that point to the prequels & the sequels of this story of Jesus' resurrection. See if what you find at the end of your hunt isn't far more valuable than anything inside an egg!

Egg #6 – If we are convinced of the truth of what this day represents, that Jesus is alive, then what does His resurrection mean for the sequel to our story? This last egg is what Jesus' resurrection makes possible – The Great Commission!

Matthew's gospel story ends with Jesus speaking the same message to His disciples that He started with. And the rest of God's story for us, is the fulfillment of that great command! Let us live out the sequel to this story!

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