The Way of Hope

Brent Moody · Matthew 28:1–20 · Series: **The Way of Jesus**

INTRODUCTION

- The disciples are huddled up in fear, hiding. They don't seem too hopeful about what Jesus has told them, or maybe they just don't understand it.
- The message here and the message of hope for us is that death is not the end. There's something beyond this.

1 A Story and a Counter Story

Matthew 27:62; Matthew 28:1–15

- There's a story and a counter story going on in Matthew 28.
- You have the story of Jesus and his death and burial and resurrection, and then you have another story being told. That Jesus is a liar, he's a deceiver, he's a fraud.
- He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.
- Tell people, his disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.

2 The Truth Can Withstand Questioning

- The foundational principle of this is that the truth can withstand questioning. It's way easier to tell the truth than it is to tell a lie.
- If the guards are asleep, as they claim, how could they give any kind of testimony to what actually happened?
- If he's really still dead, where's the body? Why not arrest the disciples?
- Why would you die for something you know is a lie?
- Even the counter story, even the lie simply admits the tomb was found empty.

3 The Ancient World Does Not Deny Jesus Existed

- It is completely obvious in the ancient world that Jesus, first of all, is a real person, and the events surrounding what happened to him are all very real.
- Tacitus is admitting that there was this Christ that everybody followed. He was executed, he was killed, and he has this following in Rome that continues to the time of Nero.
- The counter story to the resurrection of Jesus remains even in AD 155 to be that the disciples stole the body by night.
- In the process of talking about how it should have happened, what they're admitting is that it did happen.
- The ancient world does not deny Jesus existed. They don't deny that he had a following.

4 Doubts and Fears Don't Mean All Hope Is Lost

Matthew 28:17

- Just because this, I think, has the best evidence or makes the most sense, doesn't mean you're never going to have any doubts.
- Just because I have some doubts and fears about it doesn't mean it's not true. What it means is I need to lean into those fears and doubts, investigate them more.
- They saw and they worshiped him, but some doubted.
- Just because you have doubts or you have some fears doesn't mean all hope is lost, and that there are no answers.

5 Go and Tell

Matthew 28:18–20

- Everybody's saying to go and tell stuff. All the way to the end, actually. And it's true of the story, the actual story, and the counter story.
- What story are you going to believe? Are you going to believe the story of Jesus, or are you going to believe the counter story? And then what are you going to do with it?
- Either way, whether you believe option one or you believe option two, you should go and tell it to the world.
- You make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit. That's by the authority of deity.
- And you're teaching them to observe all that I've commanded you.

THE CHALLENGE

But I want to end this morning asking you, do you believe? And if you do, how have you acted on that belief?

MY NOTES