

AS DAWN ARRIVED . . . HE AROSE

Matthew 28:1–7



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Have you ever felt lost and alone, like you're stumbling through a dark tunnel and God's light seems so far away?

So did the disciples. When the thick fog of disillusionment and disappointment settled after Jesus' heartbreaking death, His disciples felt helpless and vulnerable. But when Christ rose from the dead, light broke through and dispelled their depression.

Through this Easter message, allow the light of Christ's resurrection to give you hope today. Remember that "weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5).



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. The Fog Settles (Matthew 16:21–22; 17:22–23)

Utter hopelessness and loneliness fell on the disciples when Jesus died. They had left everything—occupations, homes, and families—to follow Him. But the crucifixion shouldn't have surprised the disciples. Jesus foretold His death several times, inciting a rebuke from Peter (Matthew 16:21–22) and grief from all the disciples (17:22–23). But Jesus had predicted not only His death but also His resurrection. The reality of Jesus' words just didn't sink in—the fog was so thick that the disciples totally forgot the resurrection promise their Master had given them.

The priests and Pharisees, however, remembered Jesus' promise to rise. So they asked Pilate for guards to secure the tomb, assuming Christ's followers would try to steal His body and fake His resurrection (27:62–66).



Quotable

*There's nothing
like a personal
visit from the One
with crucifixion
scars to lift the
fog in your
heart.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2015 and Message Mate copyright © 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM01

AS DAWN ARRIVED . . . HE AROSE

Matthew 28:1–7

2. The Fog Lifts (Matthew 28:1–7; John 20:1–2, 19–29)

In the fog of their grief and the preoccupation of their self-pity, the disciples' emotions blocked the memory of Christ's promise to rise from the dead. That is, until Sunday morning when Mary Magdalene went to Christ's tomb and found an angel instead. But still, even when the heavenly messenger told her that Jesus had risen, she told the disciples that someone had stolen the Lord's body. When Peter and John raced to the tomb and realized what had happened, they remembered Jesus' promise to rise. But the disciples lived in fear of the Jewish authorities, until Jesus appeared and gave them peace and gave Thomas a reason to believe. There's nothing like a personal visit from the One with crucifixion scars to lift the fog!



LET'S LIVE IT

At long last, those who had once been Jesus' loyal band of disciples, but got lost in the fog of His death, came full circle. Jesus' resurrection transformed them from a fearful group of unreliable deserters into a band of fearless evangelists who turned the world upside down. What a difference Christ made in their lives when they were truly convinced that He had risen from the grave!

Where are you in all of this? Do you frequently forget Jesus' promises and doubt the reality of His words? Are you fearful and sullen when confidence and hope should characterize your life? If so, why?



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2015 and Message Mate copyright © 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

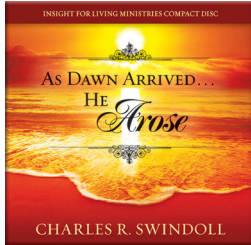
MM01

AS DAWN ARRIVED . . . HE AROSE

Matthew 28:1–7



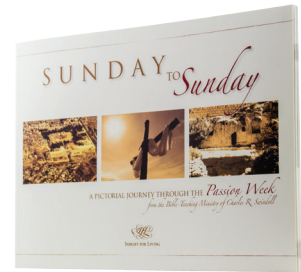
Tools for Digging Deeper



**As Dawn Arrived . . .
He Arose**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD



**Suddenly One Morning:
The Shopkeeper's Story
(radio theater production)**
by Charles R. Swindoll and
Insight for Living Ministries
single CD radio drama



**Sunday to Sunday: A
Pictorial Journey Through
the Passion Week**
by Charles R. Swindoll and
Insight for Living Ministries
softcover book

For these and related resources, visit www.insightworld.org/store
or call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK +44 1306 640156



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 2015 and Message Mate copyright © 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM01