

Garden to Garden Part 8

FAQ: Matthew 28:1-15

Q: What is the central theme connecting the "Garden to Garden" series in our study of Matthew?

A: The central theme is the restoration of God's original glory and the reversal of the curse brought about by sin in the Garden of Eden. The series traces a path from the first garden, where sin entered the world, to the garden of Jesus' burial, where the resurrection signifies the defeat of sin and death and the dawning of a new era.

Q: How did the first garden, the Garden of Eden, differ from the garden where Jesus was buried?

A: The Garden of Eden was a place filled with the glory and presence of God, where humanity (Adam and Eve) lived without sin, shame, death, or fear, in direct communion with God. In contrast, the garden where Jesus was buried was a place touched by the consequences of sin and death. However, it became the site of a pivotal transformation where death was disrupted and life erupted through the resurrection, marking the return of God's glory in a new way.

Q: What was the immediate consequence of sin entering the Garden of Eden, and how did God respond?

A: The immediate consequences of sin were the disruption of life and the eruption of death. Adam and Eve, having disobeyed God, experienced fear for the first time and hid from Him. God's initial response was not comfort but a curse upon the serpent, humanity,



and the ground. However, within this curse, God made a crucial promise (Genesis 3:15) that foreshadowed the defeat of the serpent and the reversal of sin's effects.

Q: What was the significance of God's promise in Genesis 3:15, and how does it connect to Jesus?

A: The promise in Genesis 3:15, often referred to as the protoevangelium, foretells that a descendant of the woman would ultimately crush the serpent's head, dealing a final blow to evil. The passage highlights that this offspring would come through the woman (without mention of a man), which is seen as a prophecy fulfilled by the virgin birth of Jesus. Jesus, through His life, death, and resurrection, is understood as the one who wages war against sin, death, and fear, ultimately crushing the power of the serpent.

Q: How does the resurrection of Jesus in the garden of the tomb represent a "different" outcome compared to the events in the Garden of Eden?

A: In the Garden of Eden, sin led to fear and separation from God, with God offering no comfort but only a curse. In contrast, in the garden of Jesus' resurrection, an angel appears and the first words spoken are "Don't be afraid." This "different" outcome is possible because Jesus' death on the cross atoned for sin, thereby removing the barrier between humanity and God. The resurrection signifies the defeat of death, the ultimate consequence of sin, and offers a message of hope and the removal of fear.

Q: What is the significance of the angel's appearance and message at Jesus' tomb?



A: The angel's appearance, radiating the glory of God, echoes the glory present in the first garden. His message, "Don't be afraid," directly contrasts God's silence on fear in Genesis 3. The angel invites the women into the empty tomb, signifying that the way to God is now open, unlike the first garden where angels guarded humanity from the Tree of Life after their sin. The angel's announcement of Jesus' resurrection confirms the fulfillment of God's promise to overcome death.

Q: What was the lie spread by the Jewish leaders regarding Jesus' empty tomb, and why does this lie inadvertently support the truth of the resurrection?

A: The Jewish leaders bribed the guards to say that Jesus' disciples stole His body while the guards were sleeping. The speaker argues that this lie unintentionally proves the resurrection because it acknowledges that the tomb was indeed empty and that something extraordinary had occurred (the angel's appearance and the earthquake). The explanation that sleeping guards would be unaware of who took the body, coupled with the disciples' lack of courage and means to pull off such a feat, makes the lie illogical and less believable than the truth of the resurrection.

Q: What are the implications of Jesus' resurrection for believers today?

A: The resurrection of Jesus has profound implications for believers. It signifies the defeat of sin, the silencing of shame, and the vanquishing of fear. It restores purpose to life, empowering believers to live fearlessly, love boldly, worship freely, serve humbly, and walk in the "newness of life." The same Spirit that raised Jesus



from the dead now lives in believers, giving them the power to overcome sin, endure suffering, and live holy lives. The resurrection is not just a historical event but the defining reality that brings hope and the power of God into everyday life.

