



One Page Sermon

By Pastor Robb McCoy

June 19, 2022

Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 AM

After the Storm: Social Support, Matthew 26:55-56, 27:55-56, 28:1, 9-10

I don't usually do this with our Sunday Scripture. I like narrative blocks that we can dig into and find insight. I don't usually present a series of verses that jump around through the story, but this week I wanted to make a theme abundantly clear. At Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane, the disciples fled.

Mark tells this story with an increased sense of panic, saying that one of the guards clutched one of the disciple's cloaks, so he ran off naked. There is no naked disciple in Matthew, but it's still clear, the men fled and left Jesus alone at the moment of his arrest.

At the cross of Jesus, all four gospels agree: Women were there. Matthew tells us, "Many women were watching from a distance. They had followed him from Galilee to serve him." If read the wrong way, this can sound like it is a group of maids who followed him from home. Misinterpreted, this group of women can be treated as little more than groupies following a rock star.

Remember though that service is the mission of what a disciple is. Jesus lifted up service to one another as the whole point of following him. The Greek word *diaconia*, or service, is where we get the word Deacon. They were deacons who followed Jesus along the Way. While the men abandoned him at the arrest, the women served until the very end.

To highlight this point, Matthew reminds us that at least two of the women were the mothers of sons who had abandoned him. James, Joseph, and the sons of Zebedee (James and John) were among the men who fled. Their mothers stayed.

Then, on the first day of the week, it was the mothers who showed up again. In Matthew, it says that they simply came to the tomb. They had no agenda. They had no spices (like in Mark). They were simply coming to sit at the tomb and mourn. Instead, they find an incredible

event—an earthquake, an angel, paralyzed guards. On their way back to tell the others, Jesus himself meets them, "Go and tell my brothers" (28:10).

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary become the first apostles. They are the first witnesses of Resurrection.

Why? Because they showed up. They were there with Jesus through his darkest days. They were there with him at the Cross. They were there to mourn him at his tomb. They simply showed up, and they witnessed Resurrection.

They had no idea what they were looking for, but they found more than what they could imagine. And why did Jesus appear to the women? Because they were there.

When we go through trauma in our lives, when we experience depression, when we are grieving or sick, or in need, certain people show up. It is good to remember who those people are. It is good to hold those people close. The ones who show up for you when you don't ask, these are the ones you can depend on after you start the healing.

This is also a reminder to us to show up for others. Sometimes we avoid people who are hurting. We don't know what to say. We don't know what we could do. We feel inadequate in the face of the hurt that stands before us. We can learn from the women at the tomb. They didn't bring anything to fix it. They didn't know what they were going to do. They simply showed up. When they did, they found Resurrection. We can show up for one another. We can send the card, make the call, mow the lawn, bring the dinner, lend a hand, share a smile. Show up in service. Show up as Disciples and we may know Resurrection.