

A New Day Has Dawned: Discussion Guide

Based on Matthew 27:45-54 & Matthew 28:1-10

Unedited AI-generated graphic on a sermon preached by Rev. John Vermeer on April 20, 2025

Introduction

This discussion guide explores the major themes from the sermon "A New Day Has Dawned," focusing on the impact of Christ's death and resurrection. The questions are designed to help you reflect on the resurrection's significance and apply these truths to your daily life.

I. Resurrection Signs

1. The sermon describes the first day of the week as a "resurrection sign." How does this day connect to the creation account in Genesis 1, and what significance does this connection have for our understanding of Christ's resurrection?
 2. How do the physical signs that accompanied the resurrection (earthquake, angel's appearance, stone rolled away) point to God's victory, holiness, and power? What impact should these signs have on our faith today?
 3. The sermon states that the resurrection ushers in "a new order" to replace "the old order mired in sin and death." What aspects of this new order do you see in your own life and in the world around you?
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II. Resurrection Words

4. The sermon emphasizes that "signs without words mean nothing to us." Why is God's Word necessary to interpret the signs of the resurrection? How does this relate to Romans 10:17, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ"?
 5. Contrast the response of the guards (who "became like dead men") with the response of the women who were told "do not be afraid." What does this contrast teach us about the different ways people respond to God's revelation?
 6. The angel reminded the women that Jesus had risen "just as he said." How does this detail strengthen our confidence in all of God's promises?
 7. The sermon points out that women were the first witnesses to the resurrection—a culturally unexpected choice. What does this reveal about God's character and the nature of His grace?
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III. The Resurrected Christ

8. What does Christ's greeting to the women teach us about His attitude toward His followers after the resurrection? How does this greeting comfort you personally?
 9. The women responded to meeting Jesus by grasping His feet and worshipping Him. Why is worship the appropriate response to the resurrected Christ? What elements should our worship include?
 10. The sermon emphasizes the combination of "reverent fear and great joy" in the women's response. How do these seemingly opposite emotions work together in healthy Christian worship?
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IV. The Impact on Our Lives Today

11. How should the resurrection transform each Sunday (the Lord's Day) for believers? In what ways can you make Sunday a day that better reflects the resurrection's significance?
12. The sermon identifies several qualities associated with the resurrection day: peace, pardon, hope, reverence, grace, joy, and worship. Which of these do you find most meaningful in your current circumstances, and why?

13. How does the resurrection give us a new perspective on difficulties, suffering, and even death? Share a specific situation where the resurrection has changed your outlook.
 14. The sermon repeatedly mentions that we are "unworthy recipients" of God's grace. How does this truth shape your approach to worship and daily Christian living?
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Conclusion

15. The sermon concludes with the statement that the resurrection "makes all the difference for all the rest of our days." In what specific ways has the reality of Christ's resurrection made a difference in your life this past week?
 16. What is one practical step you can take this week to live more fully in light of the truth that "Christ is risen just as He said"?
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"A new day has dawned. A new day of peace, pardon, hope, reverence, grace, joy, and certainly worship."