

Matthew 28 God's Economy

Introduction

I'm going to say two words that tend to inspire some depression these days. They are not high cholesterol, road construction, sugar free, or Microsoft Office. They are "the economy." These two words could inspire many other two-word expressions that we won't get into now.

It was much simpler when we were kids, right? Kids have an economy. It's a trade based economy. In my particular circle it was He-Man, Star Wars, and GI Joe figures and vehicles. For you it might have been baseball cards, or marbles. I think today it's video games.

An economy is based on value. How much is something worth? How much of it do you have? How little of what I have can I give you so that you will give me the most of what you have?

In a very real sense, God has an economy. Whether we intentionally think about it in those terms, we do think about it in those terms. I don't want to reduce our relationship with God to an economic formula, but I would like to use this concept as a framework to talk about [Matthew 28](#). Specifically, there is a significant difference between what the Bible describes as God's economy, and how we, as believers or not, understand God's economy and consequently relate to Him.

Ingression

In other words, our spiritual economy is not compatible with God's spiritual economy. God's is way better. With that in mind, let's get into [Matthew 28](#).

Inspiration

Review series, audience, intention.

Review last week.

Read and riff [28:1-10](#)

Why did Jesus rise from the dead? Pat answer; to save us from our sins. If that's the case, if it's paid for, why then do we operate like we are going trade our goodness for Heaven when we die? Believer, non-believer, is that what you think this is?

Ingression

Let's talk about the resurrection from a practical standpoint for a bit.

Did it even happen?

Ideation

I can say it did with the same certainty and based on the same kinds of reasons as I can say that Abe Lincoln was the 16th pres. of the US.

Instruction

I'm not going to lay out all of that now, but will refer you to some resources. [slide] *Evidence That Demands A Verdict* by Josh McDowell (library), and *The Case for the Resurrection* by Lee Strobel.

Interconnection

Assuming it did happen, what happened?

Is Jesus a zombie?

Ideation

There is a difference between resurrection and resurrection. Confused?

Instruction

All of the events recorded in the Bible where someone comes back from the dead (except for Jesus) might be better described as a resuscitation, rather than a resurrection.

They were dead to be sure, for days in some cases. But the body, the thing that died, is the same thing that came back from the dead. No, they are not zombies. This is not what happened to Jesus.

Ideation

Jesus was changed. He was transformed. He shed His earth-suit and changed into His eternity suit. He became more than human, and not just because He was also God.

Instruction

This is why He is called the firstborn from the dead. [Colossians 1:18](#) and [Revelation 1:5](#).

Jesus Himself says in [Jhn 12:24](#) - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Illustration

Time lapse seed [video](#)/describe. Did the same seeds just pop out of the ground again? No. Something new, something different, something more than what it was before comes out.

The same is true of Jesus. [Flatland](#).

Instruction

The same will be true of all humanity at some point in the future. The difference is where one spends their eternity in this new, glorified, eternity suit.

Interconnection

How is that determined? This brings us back to the question; why was Jesus crucified and resurrected? What is God's economy?

God's Economy

Ideation

In a sense, we owe God. There are many other facets to this concept, many other ways to describe this, but this is the approach we are going to take today.

Instruction

Genesis 3. While the act of disobedience in the form of eating from the tree was a sin, it stemmed (pardon the pun) from the core problem (pun again) of deciding for themselves what was right and wrong, instead of allowing God to continue to determine that for them, which is His rightful position as Creator.

Relativism, pluralism, who decides, and how? Human rights? Who decides, and how? Nothing has changed.

All sinful actions are the fruit of the sinful heart that says, "I'm boss," when God says, "I'm Boss." Sin has a cost. That cost is separation. Sin separates. It separates us from God in a similar yet deeper way as it does from people. What happens when you lie/steal/covet to/from/over another person? Separation.

With other people, it takes humility, honesty, apology, and restitution to make it right. With God, there is not just a personal disconnect, there is a spiritual disconnect. There is a spiritual incompatibility. We need the humility, honesty, and apology, but we don't have what it takes to make restitution. We can't make it right. It's as if we have Pesos but God only accepts Dollars. Doesn't matter how many Pesos we have. **Romans 6:23a.** God is life. Death is incompatible with life. Do you see the problem?

If you can't do it yourself, you need to find someone to do it for you. Tall people. Since we can't do it, since our economy is incompatible with God's economy, God did it for us. That is the good news. That is the gospel. **2 Corinthians 5:21.** Jesus took upon Himself the debt that we owe God and paid it for us.

Ideation

It's at this point that we need a perception adjustment. Our modern, American, "I'm OK, you're OK," thinking get's in the way. **The reality is that we are slaves of this world.**

Instruction

The only way to experience freedom from it is to be bought out of it. Since we don't have what it takes to do that, since we don't have the right economy, again, this is what Jesus did in His death and resurrection.

[slide] **Roman 6:23, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 7:23** (talking to literal slaves), **Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Peter 1:18-19.** Jesus on the cross. **It is finished.**

Salvation is a free gift because you couldn't pay for it anyway. Why did Jesus rise from the dead? Pat answer; to save us from our sins. Are you still trying to pay for your gift? If someone bought you a ticket for a cruise, would you get on the boat and start cleaning the rooms or working in the kitchens? **Romans 10:9-10.**

If you want to get down and dirty with the resurrection read **1 Corinthians 15.** But for now...

Interconnection

What then are we supposed do for Jesus, and why? We'll come back to that.

The cover-up

28:11-15 Walk through

The student becomes the teacher

Ideation

Being a disciple is the normal Christian life. Being what most people (even Christians) might call “radical” is the normal Christian life. This is what we are supposed to be doing for Jesus as His servant and His friend.

Instruction

28:18 Because **all authority has been given to Me**, I can say this.

28:19 Breakdown. Not “make converts,” or “change minds.”

Our working definitions from the beginning. **The mission of a rabbi was to become a living example of what it means to apply God's Word to one's life. The task of the disciple was to become as much like the Rabbi as possible.**

make disciples - one word, imperative verb. From Zodiates

*Mathēteúō must be distinguished from the verb mathēō (n.f.) or manthánō (3129) which simply mean to learn without any attachment to the teacher who teaches. Mathēteúō means not only to learn, but to become attached to one's teacher and to become his follower in doctrine and conduct of life.*¹

“Don't push your beliefs on me!” Hypocritical and self refuting statement. Disobedience to Jesus.

If you aren't being disciplined, discipling someone else, or both, then you are missing the point. Your life is either in the process of looking more and more like Jesus, or it isn't.

baptizing - describe where the word comes from, the cultural purpose, and **Romans 6**.

28:20 Breakdown.

teaching - to instruct by word of mouth. The words observe or obey in your translation each convey most of the meaning. With both English words you get the bigger picture. **Observe** like a guard tower, **obey** with vigilance.

I am with you always - Could they do this on their own? No. They needed Him, which is the primary purpose of the HS. However, I suspect there is very much a relational aspect to this as well.

Imploration

Because our economy isn't compatible with God's, God made the exchange for us through Jesus. Because we are slaves of this world and we can't buy our own freedom, Jesus did it for us.

As His servants, as His disciples, we are called to become as much like our Rabbi Jesus as possible, which is only possible through the power of the HS. More than that, we are called to deliver this message of freedom to others, and help them live in this freedom as others have helped us.

¹ Zodiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary : New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

Why? Out of a sense of obligation? Partially. Out of guilt? Absolutely not because Jesus took that from you. Then why? Because you love Jesus. And if you love Jesus, you will love people. It's as much about what Jesus is saving them to as it is what they are saved from.

1 John 4:7-19 Do you love Him? He loves you. What are you going to do with that? That is the most important question because your answer to it will effect the rest of your life now, and for eternity.