

The evangelist Matthew records the Galilean presentation of the giving of the Great Commission. We notice three essential things in our Lord's words, namely, the universal mission, baptism, and the promise of a spiritual presence. The history of the apostles according to the Book of Acts shows how the Great Commission of the risen Christ was carried out. With the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 28:18-20 we may compare these words of His, "But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

From the Gospel of Matthew we pass on to the Gospel of Luke. In the twenty-fourth chapter Luke tells us of the visit of the women to the sepulchre. These faithful women had come with spices which they had prepared in order to anoint the body of Jesus. Upon arrival at the tomb they found that the stone had been rolled away and the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. While they were perplexed about what had happened, two men stood by them in shining garments, and said, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" "He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee. Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." The women remembered these words and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things to the eleven disciples. The testimony of the women was disbelieved by the apostles who considered their words as idle tales. Peter himself arose and ran to the sepulchre. When he saw the linen clothes laid by themselves in the tomb he departed, wondering at the thing which had happened. (v. 12)

At this point in the chapter Luke narrates a very graphic and detailed account of an incident which occurred on the first day of the week. This is one of those beautiful narratives in the Gospel of