

**LESSON #87 – THE BURIAL OF JESUS**

*Matt. 27:57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42*

How sad the followers of Jesus were. Jesus was dead. He had been put to death by sinful men. But it had all been according to the plan of God. Jesus had died for you and for me and for all those who would believe in Him by the power of God's Holy Spirit. It was the practice of the Romans to make sure that those who had been crucified really died so the soldiers came and they broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus and then those of the other one. This was to make them die faster because of the pain. But when they came to Jesus He was already dead. Instead of breaking His legs they took a spear and cut open His side and water and blood came out. The prophets had even said that the Savior would not have a bone broken. Everything happened just as God said it would.

It was now near evening and a rich man named Joseph wanted to take the body of Jesus so that it could be buried properly. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He was a believer and he believed that Jesus really was the King that they had been waiting for. Another man was with him whose name was Nicodemus. Do you remember him? He was the one who had come to Jesus during the night and Jesus had told him that he must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus brought some spices and stripe of cloth to wrap Jesus in as they did in those days. He and Joseph took His body and wrapped it in the spices and cloth and laid it in a tomb, a place which had been cut out of a rock where people were buried. It had never been used before. The women who had followed Jesus watched them as they buried Jesus. When Joseph and Nicodemus were finished with His body they laid Him in the tomb and took a big stone and rolled it in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

The next day the chief priests and the Pharisees remembered that Jesus had said that He would rise from the dead on the third day. So they went to Pilate and told him that he should put someone by the tomb to guard it. They did not believe that Jesus would really rise from the dead but they thought that some of those who had loved Jesus and had followed Him might come and steal His body and then say that He had risen from the dead. Even when Jesus was dead, they were still afraid of Him but they would not believe in Him because of their sinful hearts.

So Pilate ordered some of his soldiers to go and to guard the tomb where the body of Jesus was. They sealed it and made sure that no one could take away His body.

Meanwhile, the women who had been watching while Jesus was buried returned to their homes and prepared spices for the body of Jesus. They planned to go on the first day of the week for they were not supposed to do such things on the Sabbath day, the day of rest.

Now Jesus' body lay in the tomb. He had really died and He was really buried. At this time the soul of Jesus was in heaven where He had told the thief He would be with Him that day. Do you know what is going to happen next? When we think of death we are tempted to think that it is the end of life. But for those who believe in Jesus Christ it is only the beginning. Jesus died and was buried to show us that death is nothing for those who believe to be afraid of. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead He said that "He who believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Because Jesus was punished in our place, our death means going to live with Jesus forever. And Jesus even promises that our bodies will be raised up again and made like His perfect body. We will see next week how Jesus defeats death and the devil's plans and leads the way for all of His people to live forever!

**Memory Verse:** "God demonstrates His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8.

**Application:** Where there is faith in Jesus, there is always hope and love.

**LESSON #88 – THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

*Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-9; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9*

Jesus had told His disciples that they would be filled with sadness, but he had also told them that their hearts would be filled with joy. Those who believe in Jesus will always have times of sadness in this life. They must always believe, you must always believe, that the time of eternal joy will come when Jesus returns again and takes you with Him forever. We cannot expect only good things to happen to us all of the time. God wants us to serve Him here, and we must believe that He is working all things for our good, just as He has promised. That is what it means to have faith!

The women and the disciples were filled with sadness because Jesus had died and had been buried. The disciples were afraid that they would be the next ones to be killed by the Jews. They hid together in a room in Jerusalem with the door locked behind them.

Early in the morning on the third day, the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb to put spices, which they had prepared, on the body of Jesus. They did not know how they would get the stone rolled away from the tomb. Perhaps the soldiers would help them. They came to the tomb with sad hearts, but they were not ready for what they saw there. As they came to the tomb, they found the stone already rolled away. The Bible tells us that there was a great earthquake, and God had sent an angel to roll the stone away. The soldiers had been so frightened that they fainted. The angel had not rolled the stone away to let Jesus out of the tomb. He had already risen from the dead. The angel rolled the stone away to show the followers of Jesus that He was not there any longer. He had risen!

As the women came to the tomb they went inside, but the body of Jesus was gone. They wondered who had taken Him away for they did not know, yet, that He had risen from the dead. Then two angels, who looked like men dressed in clothes, spoke to them. They said, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and on the third day be raised again?’” Then they remembered, and they believed. The angels told the women to go to the disciples and tell them that Jesus had risen from the dead and would be with them soon in Galilee.

One of the women, Mary Magdalene, ran back all the way to Jerusalem and told the disciples what had happened. She did not understand that Jesus had risen from the dead and was alive on the earth. She thought that He had probably gone to heaven. Now the disciples wondered what had happened. Peter and John took off running for the tomb. John reached the tomb first and bent down to look inside. Then Peter came and went into the tomb, and John went in with him. The body of Jesus was not there, only the strips of cloth He had been wrapped in. They believed that Jesus had risen, but they still did not understand why all of these things had happened. We will learn more about that in the lessons to come.

Meanwhile, the guards had run back to Jerusalem. They told the chief priests what had happened. They did not believe that Jesus had risen. They did not want anyone else to believe it either. They paid the soldiers a lot of money to lie to everyone and say that the followers of Jesus came in the night and stole His body. So that is what they said. There are many Jews who still believe that story today!

Do you believe the truth? Do you believe that Jesus really did rise from the dead? If you want Jesus as your Savior, you must believe it! All power is His. He is the Son of God! He is the King of God’s people. He died and rose again for you. Believe, and you, too, shall live forever!

*The Resurrection of Jesus (Continued)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” – I Corinthians 15:20

**APPLICATION**

Remember the words of Jesus that He would rise again? He had said that the temple where God dwelt would be destroyed, and He would raise it up again in three days. Jesus was and is God. All power over all things belongs to Him. By rising again, Jesus has taken away any need for fear of anything for those who trust in Him. Because He lives, we know that we will never die. We will simply go from earth to heaven, and we shall always be with God. What a very great privilege to be called the “children of God!”

**QUESTIONS**

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. Faith in Jesus means that God will always turn our sadness into \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ because they were afraid that the Jews would want to kill them since they had killed Jesus.
3. When the women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with the spices which they had prepared, they found the \_\_\_\_\_ already rolled away from the entrance to the tomb.
4. Some angels appeared to the women to tell them that Jesus was not there, He had \_\_\_\_\_!
5. The angels reminded the women of the things which \_\_\_\_\_ had spoken before He had died.
6. The angels told the women to tell the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus had risen and would see them soon.
7. The women \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus had risen, but they did not understand what this meant and that they would see Jesus again.
8. When Mary told the disciples what had happened, \_\_\_\_\_ and John ran to the tomb.
9. The soldiers had returned to Jerusalem, and when they had told the chief priests what had happened, the Jews paid them a lot of money to say that the followers of Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ His body.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ about what happened to Jesus is found in God’s Word and those who believe that Jesus is the Savior will believe everything which the Bible says about Him, and what His death and resurrection mean to believers.

believed  
truth  
stone  
disciple

hiding  
joy  
Peter

stolen  
risen  
Jesus

**LESSON #87 – JESUS BEFORE THE SPIRITUAL COURT**

*Read Matt. 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:54-55; John 18:12-24*

You will remember that when Jesus was born the wise men came and asked the king where Jesus was. The chief priests and scribes knew that the prophet Micah had predicted that He would be born in Bethlehem but they did not go there with the wise men. They did not believe the Scriptures even though they claimed to be God’s people. Now Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem as Zechariah had predicted, on the colt of a donkey. He had been raised in Nazareth as Isaiah had predicted. He had performed signs and wonders which no one but God could do. And, yet, they did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the promised Savior!! They were so blinded by sin! Do not judge them. All of us are blinded by sin. If you can understand what Jesus has done and if you believe that He is the Son of God who came to pay for your sins on the cross, then thank God; for it is only by the work of His Holy Spirit, by grace, that you are any different than these religious leaders.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where was Jesus taken following His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which of the disciples followed Jesus after they had fled? (one name is given, can you guess the other?)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the Jews trying to find by questioning Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did Peter go? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did they find any evidence that made Jesus worthy of death? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did two of the witnesses finally agree that Jesus had said? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Jesus respond when the high priest asked Him about His teaching? \_\_\_\_\_
7. After this one of the officials struck Jesus in the face. What did Jesus say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The priest was getting tired of the different stories he was hearing. What did Jesus do when the High priest asked Him about the things which these witnesses were saying? (See Isaiah 53:7) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Then the High Priest asked Jesus a very important question. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How did Jesus answer? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did this make the High Priest so upset? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What sentence did they pass on Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What did they do to Jesus then? \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT**

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. Is Jesus your example?