

The Resurrection

John 19:38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave *him* permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.

- Jesus has been pronounced dead. Whipped 39 times by a cat of 9 tails. Nails driven through His hands and His feet. Hung on the cross for 6 hours. A spear driven through His side where blood and water flowed. He is pronounced dead by the most professional and expert executioners in the history of the world to that point.
- Before the crucifixion Joseph was a secret believer. Now he is risking his reputation, his wealth, his life to be associated with Jesus.

John 19:39-40 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

- Nicodemus, also a secret believer, now comes forward to prepare Jesus' body for burial.
- Why are secret believers doing this? Because the disciples have fled. They are now in secret. In fact, only John even came to the crucifixion.
- The women followers of Jesus stood by Him with far more conviction than most of the men.
- But here we see 2 secret believers willing to risk it to take care of Jesus' body.
- Why 75 pounds of spices? This was to preserve the body for as long as possible. They mixed with the linen cloths and hardened to form a sort of shell. It would be really stiff and impossible to unwrap. It would have to be cut away.
- The Jews believed that the spirit stayed in the body until decay set in. So they believed that after the 3rd day, the spirit left. This is why it was such a big deal that Lazarus was dead 4 days, and why Martha responded by saying but Lord, he stinketh.

John 19:41-42 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation *Day*, for the tomb was nearby.

- Jesus is laid in a tomb. Everyone knows He is dead.

Matthew 27:59-66 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. ⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb. ⁶² On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³ saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, "He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

- The tomb is sealed with a stone. This would be a 1.5-ton boulder that is rolled into a rut that sits at the entrance to the tomb. To prevent grave robbers and animals.
- It is then sealed with a wax seal and stamped with the Roman Empire Seal. That seal meant death to anyone who broke the seal.

Matthew 28:1-4 Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*.

- The first day of the week. In the New Testament we see that they stop worship services on the Sabbath and change to Sunday. This is to honor the resurrection.
- So this angel rolls away the stone and then sits on it.
- The stone would still have the Roman seal on it. Now a broken seal.
- The seal that declared death to the living is now broken and the open tomb is the symbol for life to the dead.
- People may try to place something over us, whether words or whatever that declare something over us. But only what God declares will stand. Only what God declares matters.
- I don't think that God, Jesus, or the angel that moved the stone even took notice of that Roman seal.

Matthew 28:5-8 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." ⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

- They ran to get the disciples.

John 20:2-4 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

- The disciples were gathered together, although only 10. Judas has hung himself. Thomas has left.
- Peter and John leave to see what's going on.

- John, who refers to himself as either the disciple whom Jesus loved, or the other disciple, felt it necessary to write in His record of Jesus' life that would live on for all eternity, that he outran Peter.

John 20:5-9 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

- John stops at the door and looks in. Peter goes past him straight into the tomb.
- Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. – What did they see that made them believe?
- The gravecloths. They wrapped the body, but not the face. The linens with the spices became encrusted and hard. The napkin was laid over the face and secured with a strip of cloth.
- Jesus passed through the cloths, but removed the facecloth, or napkin. He then folded it next to the grave cloths. This would have left a body-shaped mold with a single hole where the face was that you could look into and see that the body was gone.
- They still did not know the Scriptures, the prophecies, but they now believed.

We may not have physical sight like the disciples of Jesus. But we have the Holy Spirit that gives us revelation to interpret the Scriptures. Plus a lot of historical proof of the resurrection. But Jesus said:

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

Luke 24:1-6a Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen!

- This passage helps with the timeline.

I want to just look at one phrase in particular:

Why do you seek the living among the dead?

We want life. We want abundant life. We want to fulfill our destiny. We want to have meaning. We want joy. We want life.

But we will not find life among the dead.

1. We died to our sin nature

- Your old spirit, the old you with the sin nature, the old you that was orphaned and separated from God ... LITERALLY DIED. And it's never coming back
- When we look for life by going back to our sin nature, trying to get needs met without God, we are looking for the living among the dead.
- Sin is really trying to get the needs of Love, Acceptance, Worth and Security met apart from God. We do that in a variety of ways.

2. We died to the law

- **Romans 7:6** But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

- For us the Law represents any attempt to gain righteousness or acceptance with God apart from Christ.
- This can also be legalism. Replacing a relationship with God with requirements to be with God.

3. We died to self

- **Galatians 5:24-25** And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- We are no longer slaves to ourselves. We do not have to do this life alone. We are united with Christ and His life indwells us. We do not have to try to find life in our flesh. We are not the source of life, and our flesh does not carry life. But we died.
- **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

But there is life. We are Alive in Christ.

Ephesians 2:4-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

In Christ is where we will find true life. He is life. And the resurrection proves this.

Luke 24:8 And they remembered His words.

This is my prayer. That you will remember the words of Jesus. That He is risen. And that He would raise you up with Him.