

“The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ”

Matthew 27:62-28:15

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To explore the circumstances surrounding the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To examine the extreme measures the Jewish religious leaders and Pontius Pilate took to keep the body of Jesus in the tomb and from being stolen by His disciples. To understand when Jesus Christ rose from the dead, the most powerful army in the world was unable to keep Him in the grave.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: The burial of Jesus and the extreme security at the tomb (Matt. 27:62-66)

1. In **verses 57-61** we examine the events surrounding the burial of Jesus Christ. Joseph of Arimathea may have used his status as a prominent member of the Sanhedrin to approach Pontius Pilate and request the body of Jesus. Had he not done so, the body of Jesus would most likely have been thrown into the Valley of Hinnom (south of Jerusalem) to be burned or eaten by animals. Why was it an extremely courageous act for Joseph of Arimathea to go to Pilate and request the body of Jesus? (See **vv. 57-58; Mark 15:42-43; Luke 23:50-53**) How would that affect him the rest of his life?

2. Who else assisted Joseph of Arimathea in burying Jesus? (See **John 19:39-42; 3:1-16**) Why did Joseph and Nicodemus hurry to place the body of Jesus in Joseph’s new tomb before sunset? (See **Luke 23:53-56**)

3. Who was watching Joseph and Nicodemus as they hurriedly worked to bury Jesus (**vs. 61**)? What were the women hoping to do? (See **Mark 16:1-3**) Did they expect to find Jesus alive or dead? What happened to the disciples of Jesus Christ as Joseph and Nicodemus courageously placed Jesus in the tomb?

4. What is the significance of “*the Day of Preparation?*” On what day did it fall (**vs. 62**)? (See Commentaries) Instead of worshiping God on the Sabbath Day, what were the Jewish religious leaders doing? What did they request from Pontius Pilate (**vs. 63**)? Did the Jewish leaders really believe Jesus would rise from the dead? What did they believe (**vs. 64**)? What were the Jewish religious leaders afraid might happen?

5. Who should have been the first to believe that Jesus Christ would rise from the dead? Why? (See **Matt. 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-19**) Why do you think the Jewish religious leaders were more concerned about this prophecy than Jesus' own disciples (**vs. 63**)? Have you run into unbelievers today who know the Word of God better than you do but don't live it? How thoroughly does Satan know the Word of God? (See **Matt. 4:5-7**) What is the necessary prerequisite to believing in Christ and living your life for Him? (See **Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:3,5; Rom. 8:6-8**)
6. Do you know people today who claim to be Christians but have no desire to obey the Word of God? Can someone really be a Christian and have no real desire to love, follow and serve Jesus Christ? (See **John 14:15,23-24; 2 Cor. 13:5**)
7. Which Roman official granted the Jews "*a guard*" for the tomb (**vs. 65**)? How many soldiers comprised a Roman guard? According to **verse 66**, what steps did the Roman soldiers take to secure the tomb? How did they seal the stone after covering the door? (See Commentaries) What would happen if a person broke through the wax seal and entered the tomb? Note: Apparently the women had left Friday evening not knowing that the Romans would seal the tomb or that guards would be stationed there. How does the picture of this seal relate to another seal in **Eph. 2:13-14**? What is the significance of the seal in **Eph. 2:13-14** to us today?

Part II: The resurrection of Jesus Christ and His appearance to the women who had been waiting at the tomb (Matt. 28:1-10)

1. Which day of the week is considered the first day (**vs. 1**)? At what time of the day did the women arrive at the tomb? Which women came? (See Commentaries)
2. What seismic activity occurred at the tomb on the morning of the resurrection? (**vs. 2**)? Was this seismic event confined to the tomb or to a much larger area? Did this event take place sometime during the night or just as the women arrived at the tomb in the morning? When else does the Bible say an earthquake struck the city of Jerusalem? (See **Matt. 27:51**) What were the circumstances surrounding both earthquakes?

3. According to the **verse 3**, what gender was the angel and what did he look like? How many angels are portrayed in the Bible as women? Why do you think society, for the most part, portrays angels as women today? Are they being truthful?

4. How did these hardened Roman soldiers respond to the circumstances surrounding the resurrection of Jesus Christ (**vs. 4**)? Does **verse 4** indicate that the Roman guards passed out or were they frozen to the ground in fear?

5. **Verse 5** says, "*the angel answered*" which seems to indicate that he was first asked a question. What do you think the angel might have been asked? How does he respond? Why didn't the two Mary's react like the Roman soldiers did?

6. In **verse 6** we find the greatest announcement ever proclaimed, what is it? What makes this announcement so special? How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ put Christians in a win/win situation today?

7. What two commandments did the angel give to the women in **verses 6 & 7**? Why do you think the angel instructed the disciples to go to Galilee? (See Commentaries)

8. What did the women do in response to the angel's command (**vs. 8**)? What do we know about the emotional state of the women as they left the empty tomb? Where did the women head off to?

9. As the women were running to find the disciples, who suddenly met them along the way (**vs. 9**)? What was the first word to come out of His mouth? Why? How did the women respond to this unexpected appearance? What deep truth can we learn about Jesus from **verse 9**?

10. What message did Jesus ask the woman to take to His disciples in **verse 10**? How was this message similar to the message shared earlier by the angel with the ladies in **verses 5-7**? What intimate title did Jesus use to address His disciples in **verse 10b**? Considering the circumstances, what makes this title so special?

11. Have you ever let the Lord down by your thoughts or actions? Have you walked away from Him when times get tough? How can we know for sure that the Lord will forgive us when we repent and ask for His forgiveness? (See **1 John 1:9**) What does the word “*repent*” mean?

Part III: The bribing of the soldiers and a plan to bribe Pilate if necessary (Matt. 28:11-15)

1. What happened in another part of the city as the women rushed to tell the disciples the news of Jesus’ resurrection (**vs. 11**)? Why do you think the soldiers came to the chief priests instead of Pontius Pilate? (See **Acts 12:5-7, 19**)

2. The Pharisees and Sadducees were enemies, what brought these two opposing groups together? Why do you think they hated Jesus so much? Once the report of the resurrection reached the religious leaders, they decided to do something to cover it up. What was their plan (**vv. 12 & 13**)? How many lies can you find in the plan?

3. How would the religious leaders protect the soldiers if Pilate got word that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb (**vs. 14**)? How did the Roman soldiers respond to this offer? Are these lies still being circulated today? What is the one thing the Jewish religious leaders and the Romans needed to do to put an end to Christianity? Could they do it?

4. What can we know for sure as a result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? What are some ways that the resurrection of Jesus benefits you as a Christian today?

5. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent of your sin right now and receive Jesus in prayer?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The chief priests and Pharisees went to extreme measures in anticipation that there would be an attempt to steal the body of Jesus from the tomb.
- When Jesus rose from the dead, even the strongest army in the world (*the Roman army*) could not keep Him in the tomb and the soldiers became like dead men.
- While the disciples fled, the woman courageously stayed close to the tomb; Jesus rewarded them by meeting with them first after His resurrection.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives every believer good reason to "*rejoice!*"
- Because of His resurrection we can know with certainty that God has accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sin; our debt has been paid in full!
- After "*coming and seeing*"... we should "*go quickly and tell*" others about "*the Good News*" of Jesus Christ and His resurrection.