

# **“He Is Not Here, He Is Risen”**

## **Luke 24:5-6**

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**Lesson Aim:** To examine the events surrounding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To understand why it was necessary for Jesus to die on the cross and to see the link between Christ’s death and the feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits. To realize the bodily resurrection of Jesus was the Firstfruits of what is yet to come for the believer. To understand God is not dead or nonexistent as so many teach today but is very much alive and reigning in heaven!

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

#### **Part I: Journey from Jericho to the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-53)**

1. Jesus traveled from Jericho to Jerusalem to celebrate the feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits. In order to reach Jerusalem, He and His entourage had to pass through the Judean Wilderness, the very place where He was tempted by the devil. According to **Luke 4:13**, what was the devil waiting for? Would he strike again during “*Passion Week*”? If so, when?
  
2. What is the meaning of the word “*Gethsemane*?” (See Commentaries) Would the meaning of this word prove true for Jesus during His garden experience? Why? According to **Luke 22:44**, what unusual physical condition happened to Jesus while praying in the garden? (See Commentaries) Why was Jesus under so much stress?

#### **Part II: The crucifixion of Christ at Golgotha, the place of the skull (Luke 23:26-55)**

1. When the Romans seized Simon of Cyrene to help Jesus, what was he actually ordered to carry (**vs. 26**)? Why couldn’t Jesus carry the cross beam Himself? (See **Matt. 27:26, 31**) Where did the Via Dolorosa lead to (**vs. 32**)? How did Golgotha, the place of the skull get its name? Is Golgotha still there today?
  
2. What amazing act of love did Jesus do while He was hanging on the cross being insulted by his executioners (**vs. 34**)? Can you pray in the same way for people who persecute you? According to Luke, what did Jesus have written above his head (**vs. 38**)? Were the Jewish leaders happy with this title? (See **John 19:19-22**)

3. Jesus had two criminals crucified next to Him, one on his right side and the other on His left (**vv. 39-43**). How did the two men differ in the way they reacted to the presence of Jesus? What promise did Jesus give to the criminal who asked Christ to remember him? When would this promise of Jesus be fulfilled?
  
4. What cosmic activity occurred at noon on the day of the crucifixion (**vv. 44-45a**) What was Jesus experiencing on the cross during this time of darkness? (See **Isa. 53:1-6; Rom. 5:8-9**)
  
5. What significance, if any, is there to the veil between “*the Holy Place*” and “*the Most Holy Place*” in the temple being torn from top to bottom at the death of Jesus (**vs. 45**)? According to **verse 46**, did the Jews and Romans kill Jesus or did He choose to give up His own life? (See **John 19:30**) How did the centurion react to the events he had just witnessed (**vs. 47**)? How did the masses of people respond (**vs. 48**)? What about the followers of Jesus (**vs. 49**)?
  
6. When Jesus died on the cross, did “*God*” actually die? What is the significance to the hypostatic union of Christ? (Hint: Search online) Did the human nature of Jesus die on the cross? Did His divine nature ever die? What would have happened if the divine nature had died?
  
7. What two Jewish leaders buried themselves to their own culture when they stepped forward to bury Jesus (**vs. 50**)? (See **John 19:38-39**) What ruling council had Joseph of Arimathea been a member of? Where else do we see Nicodemus in Scripture? (See **John 3:1-3**) What can we learn from **John 19:38-39** about the encounter Nicodemus had with Jesus in **John 3:1-16**? Are you willing to take a stand for Jesus even if it costs you dearly?

### **Part III: The resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:1-7)**

1. How do you think the followers of Jesus felt following His death? What kind of thoughts do you think went through their minds? According to **Luke 24:1**, what happened very early in the morning on the Sunday following Friday’s crucifixion? What did the women discover upon their arrival at the tomb (**vv. 2 & 3**)? According to Matthew, what had Pilate done to secure the tomb? (See **Matt. 27:62-66**) What plan did the religious leaders come up with to say that the body of Christ had been stolen? (See **Matt. 28:11-15**) Why did they do this?

2. What did the women find when they arrived at the tomb (**vs. 4**)? What did the angels look like? How did the women react to their appearance (**vs. 5a**)?
  
3. What world-shaking announcement did the angel make to the women in **verse 5b and 6**? What are the ramifications of that announcement for you today?
  
4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves to us that: 1) The Bible is true; 2) Jesus really is God's Son – He is the Jewish Messiah; 3) The resurrection is God's stamp of approval upon the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross; 4) Jesus is the firstfruits; that is, God will one day resurrect the bodies of Christ-followers as He resurrected the physical body of Jesus; 5) The resurrected body of the Christian will be similar to the resurrected body of Jesus; prepared for eternity, never to die again. Why are each of the above points important to you?
  
5. Discuss the significance of the following quote: *“This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works or art, and songs of praise than the whole army of the great men of ancient and modern times.”* ~ Philip Schaff (*“The Person Of Christ”*)
  
6. Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so in prayer right now? If you have wandered away from the faith, why not rededicate your life to Christ today?

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

- Satan wanted Jesus to do anything or go anywhere other than to the will of God; Satan functions the same way with us today.
- Jesus was not sweating blood because He was about to be crucified, He was sweating blood because He was about to become the sin bearer and face the wrath of God because of our sin.
- Jesus underwent six illegal trials between midnight Thursday and 9:00am Friday because the religious leaders wanted to be able to consider themselves "*clean*" on the Passover.
- The men closest to Jesus, His disciples (except John), turned their backs on Him when the heat was turned up.
- The Jews and Romans did not kill Jesus; Jesus gave up His own spirit.
- The strongest army in the world couldn't keep Jesus in the grave.
- The resurrection of Christ proves that God is not dead or nonexistent like so many teach today, He is very much alive and reigning in heaven!