

CHRIST'S BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 27:57-66; 28:1-20

LESSON 221 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "I know that my redeemer liveth" (Job 19:25).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 27:57-66

⁵⁷ When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

⁵⁸ He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

⁵⁹ And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

⁶⁰ And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

⁶¹ And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

⁶² Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

⁶³ Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

⁶⁴ Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

⁶⁵ Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

⁶⁶ So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone,

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

The Crucifixion of Christ

Less than a week before Christ's crucifixion, the people had honored Him as He made His triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. The multitude had cried, "Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Mark 11:9). Within a few days, their praises of honor were turned to cruel shouts of "Crucify him, crucify him" (Luke 23:21). After Pilate had declared for the third time that Christ was innocent, the mob gained control, and Christ was led away to be crucified.

Forgiveness

Upon Mount Calvary, nailed to the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). So great was His love for sinful men that He freely forgave those who killed Him, besides giving His life that all who believe in Him might have eternal life. When the love of Jesus fills our hearts, we have no hard feelings toward any person, even toward those who would mistreat us. We, too, have the love which freely forgives.

Jesus, the Son of God, died upon the cross, hanging between two thieves. Thus the Scriptures were fulfilled (**Isaiah 53:12** ¹² Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.). "One of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water" (John 19:34). Christ gave His life and shed His Blood that we might have our sins washed away, and live clean, holy lives here upon earth and prepare for Heaven.

His Followers

At the time of Jesus' crucifixion and death, His followers had been scattered. Peter denied that he knew Jesus (**Matthew 26:70-72**

⁷⁰ But he denied before *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. ⁷¹ And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and said unto them that were there, This *fellow* was also with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷² And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.). Others stood afar off beholding the things which happened. Some were very timid lest it be known that they were Jesus' followers. Perhaps they feared that a similar death was awaiting them if they claimed to be Jesus' disciples. Since it was the day to prepare for the Feast of the Passover and no body could remain on the cross on the Sabbath Day (**John 19:31** ³¹ The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.), what would become of the body of Christ?

Faithful

In times of need, there have always been faithful people to

and setting a watch.

Matthew 28:1-20

¹ In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

⁵ And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which 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, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

⁸ And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

⁹ And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

¹⁰ Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

¹¹ Now when they were going,

work for the Lord. At this time, when some seemed to draw back, and others were overcome by grief, a rich man of Arimathea took the opportunity of doing what he could. This man, Joseph, was a good and just man who believed in and "waited for the kingdom of God" (**Luke 23:50-51** ⁵⁰ And, behold, *there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:* ⁵¹ (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) *he was of Arimathea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.*). Joseph was a "disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews" (John 19:38). The Jews had agreed that any man who confessed Christ would be put out of the synagogue (**John 9:22** ²² *These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.*). At this time of need, Joseph identified himself with Christ's followers.

In times past, before Jesus' death, Joseph had been fearful — he had followed Jesus secretly. Now, at the time of Jesus' death, he had courage. Seemingly without thinking of his position as a counselor, or without considering what the result might mean to him, Joseph went boldly to Pilate (**Mark 15:43** ⁴³ *Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.*), and begged permission to care for the body of Jesus. Joseph went to the one who had authority to dispose of Jesus' body. Joseph did not try to do it without anyone knowing, but he received permission in a proper and orderly manner. Pilate gave the body of Jesus to Joseph, thus delivering Him from the hands of enemies into the hands of friends.

Preparation

When Jesus' body was delivered to Joseph, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. Another one of Jesus' followers — Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus at night — helped Joseph. Nicodemus brought a mixture of spices to put with the body, as was the custom of burying among the Jews (John 19:39). They prepared the body of Jesus for burial with love, care, and foresight, as much as their limited time would allow. Joseph had a new tomb, hewn out of a rock, which had been prepared for Joseph himself. We are told that only rich people could afford such a tomb — hewn in rock, and new. This, too, fulfilled the prophecy concerning Christ's death and burial: "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death" (Isaiah 53:9).

Nicodemus gave costly spices, and Joseph gave his new tomb to be used for Jesus. Is this not a good example for us — to give something to Jesus? Perhaps we have planned to use our lives for ourselves and our own gain. But our lives are something that Jesus can use. Maybe we have planned to use our talents for our own personal pleasure. Jesus can use them, too. As we read of others giving to Jesus, is there not something in our heart which desires to give to Jesus, too? Are we as willing as Joseph to give to the Lord that which Jesus can use and which He needs?

Burial

Jesus was laid in Joseph's new tomb, and a great stone was rolled to the door. Near by were some of Jesus' followers — women from Galilee (**Luke 23:55** ⁵⁵ *And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.*) — who saw where Jesus was laid. So Jesus was buried as if the disciples expected Him to remain in the grave. The bodies of dead people do remain in the grave; but Jesus was the Son of God, and He had resurrection power. Jesus had said that He would rise again the third day

behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

¹² And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

¹³ Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

¹⁴ And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

¹⁵ So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

(**Matthew 16:21** ²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.). Jesus had power over death and the grave.

Jesus' disciples seemed to forget His teachings. Others remembered that He had said that He would come forth from the grave. The chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate with a request that he command that Jesus' tomb be made sure lest the disciples should move Jesus' body and say that He had risen (**Matthew 27:64** ⁶⁴ Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.). Pilate gave permission for them to make Jesus' grave as sure as they could.

The chief priests and Pharisees sealed the stone at the door of the tomb. Soldiers were left to guard it. They did all that was within their power to try to keep Jesus in the grave, but they failed. "There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD" (Proverbs 21:30).

The Third Day

Very early the morning of the third day after Jesus was buried, several women, followers of Jesus, made their way through the dimness to the garden where Jesus had been buried (**John 19:41-42** ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. ⁴² There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.). As they went along the way, they wondered how they would roll the stone from the door of the tomb (Mark 16:3). When they arrive& at the grave, in the light of the dawn they saw that the stone was already rolled away. They had wondered and worried unnecessarily. How many times have we concerned ourselves about something that never came to pass? May we learn to commit our lives to God and trust Him instead of wondering and worrying about the future!

An Angel

Who rolled the stone from the door of the tomb? There was an earthquake, and an angel from Heaven rolled the great stone away. The appearance of the angel frightened the soldiers. The clothing of the angel was dazzling, white as snow. The angel's face was bright like the lightning. The soldiers, who were keeping the watch, trembled and became as dead men.

The angel spoke reassuringly to the women, and told them not to be afraid. The women were invited to look into the tomb where Jesus had lain. There was no linen-wrapped body which they had expected to find. Jesus was not there; He was risen, as the angel said, and the burial clothes were left in the tomb (**John 20:5** ⁵ And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.).

Fear and Joy

As the women went to tell the other disciples, their hearts were filled with a mixture of fear and joy. They had fear because they were overwhelmed by the power of Jesus which was greater than they could understand. They had joy because they would see Jesus, and that He was not dead. As the women ran to tell the good news to the disciples, Jesus Himself met them. He greeted them, saying, "All hail." The women knelt at His feet and worshiped Him. Jesus told them to tell the others that He would meet them in Galilee.

A Bribe and a Lie

Some of the soldiers assigned to watch Jesus' grave reported to the authorities what had happened. The chief priests held a council with the elders. They decided to try to keep the truth from the people. They would not admit that Jesus had risen from the grave. They bribed the soldiers with a large sum of money, to lie. The soldiers risked the punishment of death for sleeping on guard. They accepted the money, and said that while they were asleep, the disciples had taken Jesus' body away. So convincing was their story that this saying was commonly reported among the Jews.

Meaning of Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus' resurrection from the grave is important to all believers. It means that we serve a living Savior, One to whom all power is given — all power in Heaven and all power in earth. It was necessary for Christ to give His life for our sins. It was just as necessary for Christ to rise from the dead that we might be justified: (**Romans 4:25** ²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.). Christ's resurrection *is* also a pledge and a pattern (a promise and an example) of the resurrection of the dead in Christ when the trumpet of God shall sound. Those who are alive and ready to meet Jesus "shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:17).

Meeting Jesus

Although some people did not admit nor believe that Jesus arose from the grave, there was a host of witnesses that saw Him. The eleven disciples went to Galilee and Jesus met them, as He had said. Jesus talked with His disciples, and they worshiped Jesus, their risen Savior.

Jesus walked along the road to Emmaus with two of His disciples (**Luke 24:13-15** ¹³ And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them). At first they did not recognize Jesus, but His presence caused their hearts to burn within them as He explained the Scriptures; and when they recognized Him, He disappeared out of their sight (**Luke 24:31-32** ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. ³² And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?). Jesus appeared to others, too. As many as 500 disciples saw Jesus at one time (**1 Corinthians 15:6** ⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep).

Doubters

Some of Jesus' followers could not believe that He had really risen from the grave and that He was alive. They heard all the reports of the others yet they wanted to see for themselves. Thomas had not attended the first meeting when Jesus appeared to the disciples. So often it is the case that when a person stays away from a Gospel meeting, and it was possible to go, that the person misses something special. Thomas missed seeing Jesus. Thomas said: "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why was Christ crucified?
- 2 Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem when He knew that the people planned to kill Him?
- 3 Who buried Jesus?
- 4 Where was Jesus buried?
- 5 How do we know that Jesus was really dead?
- 6 How long was Jesus in the tomb?
- 7 What happened to the stone at the door of the tomb?
- 8 Why did Jesus rise from the dead?
- 9 Why is it important for us to believe in Jesus' resurrection?
- 10 How do we know that Jesus arose from the dead?

hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

At the next meeting, Thomas was there. Jesus was there, too. When Thomas saw Jesus, it was not necessary to put his hand into the nail-prints. When Thomas saw Christ, he believed. Jesus said: "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Knowledge Through Experience

There have been many believers who never saw Christ yet who knew that He was living. Even Job spoke with certainty, when he said, "I know that my redeemer liveth."

Jesus' followers today have not seen Jesus, but in their hearts they know that He is living. A Christian's walk is one of faith, not of sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7** ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)). Then how do we know that Jesus is living? It is more than faith. It is more than hope. It is an experience of salvation that one has in his heart that gives the assurance of a living Savior.

"He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."