



Lesson Ten – August 4, 2020

The Burial and Resurrection

The Burial of Jesus' Body

John 19: 38 - 42 - Jesus Is Buried

³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was 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 away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus^[e] by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds^[f] in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ 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 because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Mark 15:42 – 47

42 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died.^[j] And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. 45 And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. 46 And Joseph^[k] bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Luke 23: 50 – 56

50 Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning.^[g] 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Some of the things we learn about the burial of Jesus from these three accounts:

Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy and prominent businessman and a secret disciple of Jesus. He was also a member of the Sanhedrin but was not among those who had condemned Jesus.

Under Roman rule, crucified victims were not to be publicly mourned, and the bodies were often left on the cross for days. Although Joseph had previously hidden his faith in Jesus for fear of the Jews, he bravely asked Pilate for permission to take away the body.

Nicodemus sought Jesus at night to try to figure out who he was ([John 3](#)). He attempted to defend Jesus before the Sanhedrin. Now, in a lavish display of devotion to the Savior, he brings 75 pounds of expensive myrrh and aloes. Both Nicodemus and Joseph had hidden their faith in Jesus for fear of the Jews.

However, at the death of Jesus, they threw their fears aside and boldly requested the body, then personally attended to his burial.

The tomb was probably a cave carved out of the stone hillside. According to the book of Matthew, the tomb was owned by Joseph of Arimathea, ([Matthew 27:60](#)).

Psalm 16:9-10: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

John does not give time frames, but according to the book of Mark

- Jesus was crucified at the third hour, which would be 9 am ([Mark 15:25](#))
- There was darkness from the sixth hour until the ninth hour 12 - 3 pm ([Mark 15:33-37](#))
- Jesus' death occurred after the ninth hour (3 pm).

There would be approximately nine hours from the beginning of the crucifixion until sunset. In order to satisfy the requirements of the Law, it was essential to complete the burial before sunset, because that is when the Sabbath would begin.

Where did Jesus go when he died on the cross?

The Resurrection of Jesus

1 Corinthians 15:12 – 19: Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the hinge event in all history. The first Christians staked everything on it.

People have been skeptical about the resurrection since it happened. But who was the most skeptical at first?

Luke 24:10-11: Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Matthew 28:16-17: Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

Mark 16:9 – 11: Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

What were the disciples doing after the crucifixion?

John 20:19: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

John 20:26: Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Who were the first witnesses of the resurrection?

What was the reaction when the disciples and women saw the open tomb?

- John believed that Jesus was risen.

John 20:8: Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.

- Not sure if Peter, who was with John, believed then or not.
- Mary Magdalene saw the empty tomb and thought his body had been stolen.

John 20:1-2: Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

- Mary Magdalene and the other Mary departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell the disciples what the Angel had told them—that Jesus was risen.

Isn't it interesting that the religious leaders were aware that Jesus had said he would rise on the third day, and they asked the tomb to be made secure until the third day, "lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

(Matthew 27:64)

Who actually witnessed the resurrection? The soldier guards.

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

However, later that afternoon the soldiers changed their story to a lie.

What is phony about the guards' alibi?

We are told that Jesus presented himself alive to his apostles whom he had chosen during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:3: He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

The ones we are told about are:

1. To Mary Magdalene.

John 20:14 – 16: Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

2. To Mary the mother of James, Salome, and Joanna.

Matthew 28:9: And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

3. Peter is the first of the apostles to see the risen Christ.

Luke 24:34: saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

4. Later Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Luke 24:13-16: That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

5. To the disciples – absent Thomas – on the day of resurrection.

John 20:19-20,24: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. . . .

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.

6. Eight days later He appeared again to the disciples – this time with Thomas present.

John 20:26-28: Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

7. Another appearance was to seven disciples on the Sea of Galilee.
John 20:1-2: Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

8. There is also the account of Jesus appearing before His eleven disciples in Galilee.
Matthew 28:16-17: Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

9. On another occasion, Jesus appeared to over five hundred people at one time.
1 Corinthians 15:6: Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

10. Scripture also says that Jesus appeared to His half-brother James.
1 Corinthians 15:7: Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

The details of this appearance are not recorded.

Why did Jesus limit his appearances to just his close friends?

Also, Jesus' resurrected body bears the scars of crucifixion. Why would he choose for the scars to show?

“The church would stand or fall based on how persuasive these eyewitnesses would be for all—including us today—who have not seen. Jesus had six weeks in which to establish his identity for all time.” (*The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey, P. 216)

The time between the resurrection and ascension for Jesus was all about preparing his disciples for the role they must play in the birth of the early Church.

How Nic and Joe Saved Easter

Nic (Nicodemus) and Joe (Joseph of Arimathea) played an extremely important role in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why was that true?

The Christian Working Woman .
205 N Washington St. Wheaton IL 60185-5314
630.462.0552 . christianworkingwoman.org . tcww@christianworkingwoman.org