

LESSON 12

DEATH AND BURIAL, PART 2; JESUS' RESURRECTION, APPEARANCES, AND ASCENSION, PART 1

FRIDAY: THE DAY OF JESUS' DEATH (CONTINUED)

Jesus' *death*—which makes possible our salvation (Rom. 5:10)—is one of the three cardinal facts of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1, 3). The others are His *burial* and His *resurrection* (1 Cor. 15:4). This section of our study will cover the closing hours of *Friday*, when Christ died; *Saturday*, when His body lay in the tomb; and the first part of *Sunday*, when He arose from the dead. These three days are the most important days in history, for what took place on those days is at the heart of our hope. (See Mt. 27:55–61; Mk. 15:40–47; Lk. 23:49–56a; Jn. 19:31–42.) [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 565–575.]

1. How did the four women at the cross of Jesus demonstrate their loyalty?
2. Why would a Roman soldier have made especially certain that a crucified criminal was dead?
3. How did blood flow from Jesus' pierced body if He was already dead?
4. Why did Jewish leaders not want the bodies of the crucified to remain on the cross during the Sabbath?
5. What do we know about Joseph of Arimathea?
6. What is ironic about the fact that Joseph and Nicodemus asked for the body of Jesus?
7. Why would Joseph have built a tomb so far from Arimathea?
8. What did the ritual preparation of dead bodies in Jewish custom entail?
9. What did Nicodemus bring for preparing Jesus for burial?

SATURDAY: THE DAY AFTER JESUS' DEATH

(MT. 27:62–66; LK. 23:56B)

For Christ's followers as a whole, Saturday was a day of despair, spent in "mourning and weeping" (Mk. 16:10) behind locked doors "for fear of the Jews" (Jn. 20:19; see the NIV). Their hopes had been buried with the body of Jesus. As Christ had foretold, they were as sheep without a shepherd (Mt. 26:31; Mk. 14:27). [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 577–580.]

10. What is remarkable about the statement of the Jewish leaders to Pilate in Mt. 27:63?

11. How did the priests make Jesus' grave secure?

SUNDAY: THE DAY OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

(MT. 28:1–8; MK. 16:1–8; LK. 24:1–12; JN. 20:1–10)

The Sabbath closed with a sigh; the first day of the week opened with a song. It took time, however, for the disciples to move from despair to delight. As we shall see, Jesus' followers had a hard time accepting the fact that He had really risen from the dead. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 583–591.]

12. When did Jesus rise from the dead?

13. Where was Jesus between Friday and Sunday?

14. Who raised Jesus from the dead?

15. Why did an angel roll away the stone and sit upon it?

After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph and James started toward the tomb (Mt. 28:1). With them were Salome and Joanna, and there may have been other women. They brought spices to complete the anointing of Jesus' body (Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:1, 10). As they neared the garden, they wondered who would roll away the stone for them. (See Mt. 28:1–8; Mk. 16:1–8; Lk. 24:1–11; see Lk. 24:22–24; Jn. 20:1.)

16. Who was Joanna?

17. At the time of Jesus' death, who believed that He would rise from the dead?

Among the women who went to the tomb early on the first day of the week was Mary Magdalene (Mt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1; Jn. 20:1). At some point, she separated herself from the other women. She may have reached the tomb before they did and left before they arrived. (See Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:1–10; see Lk. 24:24.)

18. In Jn. 20:2, where did Mary Magdalene find Peter and John?
19. What was it about the neat piles of cloth in Jesus' empty tomb that produced faith in John?
20. What was the nature of John's and Peter's faith when they left the tomb?