

## “His Final Day”

( Christ the Victor )

\* Mark 16:1-6

**16** Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus’ body. **2** Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. **3** On the way they were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” **4** But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

**5** When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, **6** but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body.

- \* Around 6:00 a.m. on Friday morning the tomb where they laid the crucified Lord is approached.
- \* All of the ugliness and violence we can imagine had climaxed during a six hour period only the day before!
- \* God in human form hung on a cross on a hillside outside the gates of the city of Jerusalem.
- \* We cannot fully appreciate Easter until we have been to the cross first.
- \* The **power** of this morning lies beyond our comprehension until we journey through hell itself and see the victory over death and the darkest of darkness itself! ( Remember how far we have fallen! )
- \* Just **WHAT** was this event all about?

I. The daily routine’s continue as earth does not realize what heaven is doing!

A. Pilate makes practical preparations in an effort to curtail any further uprisings from Jesus’ followers as well as the Sanhedrin!

## Matthew 27:62-66

**62** The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. **63** They told him, “Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: ‘After three days I will rise from the dead.’

**64** So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we’ll be worse off than we were at first.”

**65** Pilate replied, “Take guards and secure it the best you can.” **66** So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.

1. Pilate was worried that Jesus’ disciples may try to pull a “fast one” and make it look like He rose from the dead as He said!
2. The scripture seems to describe this sabbath as an uneventful morning up to this point as the disciples “rested on the sabbath”!
3. There are implications that the disciples had been mostly in hiding since Jesus’ arrest! At least until Jesus interrupted their allusiveness with His appearing!!!!

## John 20:19

**19** That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.

B. It would difficult to overstate the devastation the disciples felt during this confusing time!

1. After a three year “build up” to this new Messiah establishing His kingdom, only to watch Him die a cruel death!
2. The excitement that Israel would no longer be subject to Roman rule and oppression, only to see them prevail!
3. They had left **everything** to follow Jesus, and now they had nothing!

C. The things they had observed and experienced over the last three years had convinced them that Jesus was the coming Messiah!

1. They watched as Jesus turned water into wine!
2. They watched as He cleansed the Temple and confounded the teachers of the law!
3. They experienced the “super natural baptism” of the Lord as the heavens thundered as the Father’s approval was given!
4. They listened as Jesus supernaturally spoke to the Samaritan woman and revealed the “secrets of her heart”.
5. They watched as Jesus healed the the man at the Pool of Bethesda who was lame for 38 years!
6. In amazement they were a part of Jesus multiplying a small meal until 5,000 were fed and leftovers were collected!
7. They even watched Jesus call Lazarus from the grave and walk, alive again!
8. Some listened in astonishment as Jesus prayed as if having a personal conversation with God!
9. **Then they watched Jesus suffer and die willingly!**

D. This is not unlike many of our experiences within our context of life! We experience the power and deliverance of life change only to walk through dark times or suffer in other ways!

1. Perhaps they pondered, “What was that He said about Jonah in belly of the whale for three days?”
2. They may have asked, “Didn’t He say something about the Temple being destroyed and rebuilt in three days?”
3. “Could He have been talking about His own life? Surely not”!
4. Do I recall hearing Him say, “ The Son of Man would be put to death, but would rise again!”

II. So what was actually happening during this “routine day” after the death death of this Jesus of Nazareth?

1 Peter 3:18-20

**18** Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

**19** So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— **20** those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.

## **1 Peter 4:6**

**6** That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead— so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.

A. We can debate the meaning of these verses all we want, but they point to the core of our redemption and the Atonement of God!

1. The scripture is rich with the supernatural attributes of our faith an events that took place when our redemption was secured!

Matthew 27:50-53

**50** Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. **51** At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, **52** and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. **53** They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

2. Martin Luther writes about this event:

“We believe simply, that the entire Person of God, in human form, descended to Hell after His burial, conquered the devil, destroyed the power of Hell and took back from the devil all His power.”

3. The spiritual events of that day according to scripture!

Hebrews 9:11-15

**11** So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this

created world. **12** With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

**13** Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. **14** Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. **15** That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

4. When we hear, trust and celebrate this Easter story, we reclaim the same faith, joy and hope of the first disciples!

B. The **RESURRECTION** is a validation of the message of Christ!

1. The message that the Son of God sits among sinners, drunkards and prostitutes!
2. The message that religion is merely a tool to point us to God and not the goal we aspire to!
3. The **goal is relationship** with the Creator!!!!!!!!!!!!
4. I validates the counter cultural message of Christ: Blessed are the poor in spirit, the hungry, the meek, the lowly and the peacemakers!
5. You are blessed when you are persecuted for His name.
6. Turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, love your neighbor, and pray for your enemies!

C. The **resurrection** also validated His own identity!!

1. John 6:35

**35** Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

2. John 11:25

**25** Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

3. John 14:6

**6** Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

4. Matthew 28:19-20

**19** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

5. Romans 1:4

**4** and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

D. **Christus Victor** Theory of Atonement can be summarized with one word: **HOPE.**

1. Frederick Buechner, Presbyterian minister and theologian, writes, “Resurrection means the worst thing is never the last thing.”
2. The resurrection means **new life!** New birth! Starting over!
3. Atonement provides for a fresh start in the Garden!
4. Let’s go back to the Garden and walk again with our Lord in the “cool of the day”! The **quiet tender moments** of devotion with HIM!!!!!!

**\* That’s what Easter is all about! The resurrection of the new which is actually the old!**

