

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

BIBLE TEXT : **John 19:31-42; Matthew 27:62-66; John 20:1-31.**

LESSON 276 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 19:31-42 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.

³² Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

³³ But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

³⁴ But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

³⁵ And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

³⁶ For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

³⁷ And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

³⁸ And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

³⁹ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*.

⁴⁰ Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

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.

Matthew 27:62-66 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, and setting a watch.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Doing His Will

As Jesus died upon the cross He said, "It is finished." He meant that He had completed the work that God had given Him to do. From the time that Jesus was a child, He had been concerned about doing the will of God. When Jesus was twelve years old He said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). Later on His words were: "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (John 4:34). Just before Jesus was crucified He said, "Father, the hour is come; . . . I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:1. 4). In this, Jesus gave us a good example. It is pleasing to God, and necessary for us as His followers, that we do His will. May we do more than have a desire to do God's will – let us actually do what He would have us do.

The death of Christ did not bring an end to His teachings. His disciples continued the work by preaching and spreading the good tidings of the Gospel. His death was necessary that we might know the forgiveness of our sins, for "without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus was the Lamb of God whose Blood was shed that whosoever believed in Him should have his sins forgiven. (John 3:16; Matthew 26:28).

The Fulfilment of Prophecy

Jesus was crucified between two thieves just as the Word of God had foretold: "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12; Mark 15:28). Since it was the day of the preparation for the Sabbath, "the bodies should not remain upon the cross." Soldiers came to hasten the death of those who had been hanged there, but Jesus was already dead. They did not break the legs of Jesus as they did those of the others. Nevertheless, a spear was thrust into Jesus' side by one of the soldiers, and "forthwith came there out blood and water." The prophets had spoken concerning these things, too. (Read Zechariah 12:10 and Psalm 34:20.)

His Burial

His burial day was a sad day for the disciples. They did not fully understand Jesus' words concerning His death. They had hoped that He would establish a kingdom on earth at that time, but now He was dead. The disciples were fearful, discouraged, and full of sorrow.

There were two members of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish council, who had believed Jesus' teachings. At a time when the other disciples were overcome by grief, these two men showed their love for Jesus. One of them, Joseph of Arimathæa, went boldly to Pilate and received permission to care for the body of Jesus. The other man, Nicodemus, brought a great and costly amount of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes. These were used to prepare the body of Jesus for burial, as was the custom of the Jews.

These men had been very timid about declaring themselves to

John 20:1-31 ¹ The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

² Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

³ Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

⁴ So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

⁵ And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

⁸ Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

⁹ For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

¹¹ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked into the sepulchre*,

¹² And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

¹³ And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to my God*, and your God.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

be Jesus' disciples. But at this time their actions showed their great love for the Lord. This was a testing time, but now these two men were not slow to show that they were followers of Jesus. Can the Lord depend upon us to take our stand for that which is right? Can He depend upon us to be true to Him when we are tested? Can He depend upon us to step forward when there is work to do?

For the Lord

Jesus' burial was according to the prophecies which had been spoken (Isaiah 53:9). Joseph of Arimathæa was a rich man (Matthew 27:57). In a garden he had prepared for himself a new tomb which was hewn out of a rock. Joseph was willing to use this tomb for the Lord. We, today, have some things which we may call our own, and which we may plan to use for ourselves. They may include our lives, our time, our talents, and our possessions. Are we willing to use them for the Lord and for His service? Joseph of Arimathæa gave, for Jesus, that which he had prepared for himself. Jesus was laid in the place which Joseph had planned to use for himself, and a great stone was rolled to the door of the sepulchre.

Setting a Watch

Although the disciples did not seem to remember them, the chief priests and Pharisees recalled the words that Jesus had spoken. They told Pilate that Jesus had said He would rise on the third day. They asked Pilate to make the sepulchre secure so the body of Jesus would remain there. Pilate answered, "Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as you can," as if he was a little doubtful that they could make it secure against the power of the Lord. Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, expressed a similar thought when he said, "If it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it" (Acts 5:39). The chief priests and the Pharisees tried to make the sepulchre secure by putting a seal on the stone and setting guards to watch.

The Empty Tomb

After the Passover, very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. When she found the stone rolled away from the door and the tomb empty, she did not remember that Jesus had told them of His resurrection (Matthew 16:21; 20:19; John 2:19). Mary Magdalene ran to Peter and John. She said, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him." Both the men hurried to the sepulchre. John was there first, perhaps because he was younger and could run faster.

When John reached the place where Jesus had lain, he stopped outside and looked in. When Peter arrived, he rushed on into the tomb and John followed him. They saw the linen burial clothes lying there, but the napkin that had been about Jesus' head was in a separate place. Without a doubt, they had heard Jesus speak of His resurrection. They had heard but had not understood. As they stood there viewing the scene, faith began to work at John's heart. "He saw, and believed."

Arisen

No one had taken Jesus away. He had risen from the dead, and the grave-clothes were left in the tomb. That great miracle had taken place as Jesus had promised. Jesus had raised others from the dead – the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:15), the daughter of Jairus (Matthew 9:18, 25), and even Lazarus who had been buried for four days (John 11:17, 44). But Jesus arose from

²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

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

²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, 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 hand into his side, I will not believe.

²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

the grave through the power of God. Never before nor since has such a miracle taken place. Jesus has power over death and the grave (Romans 6:9). He is a victor over death, and because He lives we shall live also (John 14:19).

The Firstfruits

"Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (I Corinthians 15:20). Because Christ was resurrected, we also shall be resurrected (I Corinthians 15:23). At Jesus' coming, the trumpet of God shall sound and "the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain 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 4:13-17). Jesus was the first to rise from the grave in such a manner. This He did for us. He was "delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

Belief in the Resurrection

It is important for men today to believe in the resurrection. A belief in the resurrection is essential to one's salvation. The Bible states: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

The resurrection of Christ gives a hope to every believer (I Peter 1:3). "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:3). That means that one must prepare his heart and life to be ready for Jesus' coming. He must be made clean by the Blood of Jesus, and his heart must be cleansed from sin. One must have the power of God in his life in order to respond to the sound of the trumpet at Jesus' coming. What a wonderful time that will be for those who are obedient to the Word of the Lord! Are you ready for that time when Jesus shall come to catch away His people?

A Living Christ

We are serving a living Saviour, not one who remained in the grave. Our Christ is all-powerful and gives us a great hope. We know Christ is living because He is living in the hearts of His people. He will reveal Himself to all who will seek after Him, just as he did to Mary Magdalene in the garden. She did not recognize the Lord until He spoke her name. Later on, He appeared to other disciples. Some did not know Jesus until He opened their eyes. Others would not believe until they had actually seen their Lord. Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

QUESTIONS

1. Why do we celebrate Easter?
2. What hope does it give to a Christian?
3. In whose tomb was Jesus buried?
4. Who buried Jesus?
5. Why were the disciples sad?
6. Why could not the chief priests and Pharisees make the sepulchre secure?
7. How long after Jesus' burial did He rise from the grave?
8. Name some prophecies that were fulfilled at the time of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.
9. How did the disciples know that Jesus arose and was living?
10. How do we know that Jesus lives today?