



Lesson 68 – In Joseph's Tomb

- 1) What did Jesus declare just before He died on the cross?

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is _____: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

At last Jesus was at rest. The long day of shame and torture was ended. As the last rays of the setting sun ushered in the Sabbath, the Son of God lay in quietude in Joseph's tomb. His work completed, His hands folded in peace, He rested through the sacred hours of the Sabbath day.

- 2) What did God the Father and the Son do after they created the world?

Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the _____ day God ended his work which he had made; and he _____ on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God _____ the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

- 3) How did the heavenly host react to God's creation?

Job 38:7 When the morning stars _____ together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Now Jesus rested from the work of redemption; and though there was grief among those who loved Him on earth, yet there was joy in heaven. Glorious to the eyes of heavenly beings was the promise of the future. A restored creation, a redeemed race, that having conquered sin could never fall, this, the result to flow from Christ's completed work, God and angels saw. With this scene the day upon which Jesus rested is forever linked.

- 4) What is the quality of God's work?

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is _____: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

- 5) How long will His workmanship last?

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be _____: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

- 6) What is the mission of Jesus?

Acts 3:20-21 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of _____ of all things, which God hath _____ by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

The creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph's tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing.

- 7) Why would I think the above statement is true?

Isaiah 66:23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one _____ to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

- 8) What did the Roman Centurion say as the ground shook as Jesus died?

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the _____, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of _____.

These words were said in no whispered tones. All eyes were turned to see whence they came. Who had spoken? It was the centurion, the Roman soldier. The divine patience of the Saviour, and His sudden death, with the cry of victory upon His lips, had impressed this heathen. In the bruised, broken body hanging upon the cross, the centurion recognized the form of the Son of God.



He could not refrain from confessing his faith. Thus, again evidence was given that our Redeemer was to see of the travail of His soul. Upon the very day of His death, three men, differing widely from one another, had declared their faith, he who commanded the Roman guard, he who bore the cross of the Saviour, and he who died upon the cross at His side.

When the earth was wrapped in blackness, many who jeered and mocked stood accused by their own consciences, they felt guilty of a great wrong. No jest or mocking laughter was heard in the midst of that fearful gloom; and when it was lifted, they made their way to their homes in solemn silence. They were convinced that the charges of the priests were false, that Jesus was no pretender; and a few weeks later, when Peter preached upon the day of Pentecost, they were among the thousands who became converts to Christ.

The Jewish leaders were unchanged by the events they had witnessed. Their hatred of Jesus had not abated. The darkness that had mantled the earth at the crucifixion was not more dense than that which still enveloped the minds of the priests and rulers.

9) What happened inside the Temple?

Matthew 27:51-53 And, behold, the _____ of the temple was _____ in _____ from the _____ to the _____; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

The Priests and Pharisees had been jealous of Christ's influence with the people when living; they were jealous of Him even in death. They dreaded the dead Christ more, far more, than they had ever feared the living Christ. They dreaded to have the attention of the people directed any further to the events attending His crucifixion. They feared the results of that day's work. Not on any account would they have had His body remain on the cross during the Sabbath. The Sabbath was now drawing on, and it would be a violation of its sanctity for the bodies to hang upon the cross. So, using this as a pretext, the leading Jews requested Pilate that the death of the victims might be hastened, and their bodies be removed before the setting of the sun.

10) What rule was given about the Passover Lamb?

Numbers 9:12 They shall leave none of it unto the _____, nor break any _____ of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.

Pilate was as unwilling as they for the body of Jesus to remain upon the cross. His consent having been obtained, the legs of the two thieves were broken to hasten their death; but Jesus was found to be already dead. The rude soldiers had been softened by what they had heard and seen of Christ, and they were restrained from breaking His limbs.

The priests and rulers were amazed to find that Christ was dead. Death by the cross was a lingering process; it was difficult to determine when life had ceased. It was an unheard of thing for one to die within six hours of crucifixion.

11) What did the soldiers do to prove He was dead?

John 19:34-37 But one of the soldiers with a spear _____ his side, and forthwith came there out blood and _____. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the _____ should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

12) What did Jesus die from?

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I _____ my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.



At the moment of death, the stream of blood and water that flowed from His side, declared that He died of a broken heart. His heart was broken by mental anguish. He was slain by the sin of the world.

With the death of Christ, the hopes of His disciples perished. They looked upon His closed eyelids and drooping head, His hair matted with blood, His pierced hands and feet, and their anguish was indescribable. Until the last they had not believed that He would die; they could hardly believe that He was really dead. Overwhelmed with sorrow, they did not recall His words foretelling this very scene.

13) Who came in to help the Disciples bury Jesus?

Matthew 27:57-60 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named _____, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be _____. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own _____, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

In this emergency, Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus came to the help of the disciples. Both these men were members of the Sanhedrin, and were acquainted with Pilate. Both were men of wealth and influence. They were determined that the body of Jesus should have an honorable burial.

14) What did Nicodemus bring?

John 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of _____ and _____, about an hundred pound weight.

Neither Joseph nor Nicodemus had openly accepted the Saviour while He was living. They knew that such a step would exclude them from the Sanhedrin, and they hoped to protect Him by their influence in its councils. For a time, they had seemed to succeed; but the wily priests, seeing their favor to Christ, had thwarted their plans. In their absence Jesus had been condemned and delivered to be crucified. Now that He was dead, they no longer concealed their attachment to Him. While the disciples feared to show themselves openly as His followers, Joseph and Nicodemus came boldly to their aid.

15) What did John, Joseph, and Nicodemus do?

Luke 23:56 And they returned, and _____ spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the _____.

Gently and reverently, they removed with their own hands the body of Jesus from the cross. Their tears of sympathy fell fast as they looked upon His bruised and lacerated form. Joseph owned a new tomb, hewn in a rock. This he was reserving for himself; but it was near Calvary, and he now prepared it for Jesus. The body, together with the spices brought by Nicodemus, was carefully wrapped in a linen sheet, and the Redeemer was borne to the tomb. There the three disciples straightened the mangled limbs and folded the bruised hands upon the pulseless breast. Then they saw the heavy stone rolled against the entrance of the tomb, and the Saviour was left at rest.

A sense of strangeness pervaded everything. One after another inquired about a strange event that had taken place. Hitherto, the most holy place had been sacredly guarded from intrusion. But now it was open to all eyes. The heavy veil of tapestry, made of pure linen, and beautifully wrought with gold, scarlet, and purple, was rent from top to bottom. With gloomy presentiments the priests ministered before the altar. The uncovering of the sacred mystery of the most holy place filled them with dread of coming calamity.

16) What Words did Nicodemus remember at this time?

John 3:14-15 And as Moses _____ the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever _____ in him should not perish, but have eternal life.



Nicodemus had opportunity for reflection. A clearer light now illuminated his mind, and the words which Jesus had spoken to him were no longer mysterious. He felt that he had lost much by not connecting himself with the Saviour during His life. Now he recalled the events of Calvary.

The very event that destroyed the hopes of the disciples convinced Joseph and Nicodemus of the divinity of Jesus. Their fears were overcome by the courage of a firm and unwavering faith.

17) What had Jesus told the rulers in Jerusalem?

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will _____ it up.

18) What had Jesus said to the Disciples?

Matthew 20:18-19 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be _____ unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to _____ him: and the third day he shall rise again.

The revenge which the priests had thought would be so sweet was already bitterness to them. They knew that they were meeting the severe censure of the people; they knew that the very ones whom they had influenced against Jesus were now horrified by their own shameful work. But now they remembered that Christ's predictions had so far been fulfilled. He had said that He would rise again the third day, and who could say that this also would not come to pass? They longed to shut out these thoughts, but they could not. Like their father, the devil, they believed and trembled.

19) What did they ask Pilate for?

Matthew 27:62-65 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto _____, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After _____ days I will rise again. 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.

The priests gave directions for securing the sepulcher. A great stone had been placed before the opening. Across this stone they placed cords, securing the ends to the solid rock, and sealing them with the Roman seal. The stone could not be moved without breaking the seal. A guard of one hundred soldiers was then stationed around the sepulcher to prevent it from being tampered with. The priests did all they could to keep Christ's body where it had been laid. He was sealed as securely in His tomb as if He were to remain there through all time.

20) How effective are the efforts of those who go against God?

Psalms 21:1-4 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a _____? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Weak men counseled and planned. Little did these murderers realize the uselessness of their efforts. But by their action God was glorified. The very efforts made to prevent Christ's resurrection are the most convincing arguments in its proof. The greater the number of soldiers placed around the tomb, the stronger would be the testimony that He had risen. Roman guards and Roman arms were powerless to confine the Lord of life within the tomb. The hour of His release was near.

Can you see God's plans can't be thwarted?

Do you want to be on the right side of His plans?

When is the time to listen?