

This is the final lesson on the Last 24 Hours of Jesus. We began this series by looking at a few days before the last 24 hours and today we will be looking at a few days after the last 24 hours of Jesus. We will begin by investigating the **EMPTY TOMB** on Sunday morning. *Matthew 28:1-4 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.*

Early on Sunday morning, two Mary's were going to the tomb to finish anointing the body with spices. Mark 16:1 identifies the "other Mary" as the mother of James. It also includes Salome into the group. Understand they were not going there to confirm the empty tomb because they believed that Jesus had been resurrected. That was not their intent. They were going to continue caring for the body. They had spices with them. In spite of at least six predictions that he would rise from the dead, these women were not expecting it.

They got there about sunrise and discovered their worries about who would roll the stone away were for naught because it was already moved. *(Matthew 28:2) And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. (3) His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: (4) And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*

When the angel appeared in his dazzling array and rolled that stone away, it literally scared those Roman guards nearly to death. As these women approached the tomb, they were greeted by the angel who first eased their fear and then told them that Jesus had risen. *Matthew 28:5-6 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. (6) He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

Now we go to Mark 16 where we see the women entering the tomb. Once inside the tomb, the women met another angel who also eased their fears and told them that Jesus had risen and that they were to go and give the message to His disciples, and especially Peter, to meet Him in Galilee. *Mark 16:5-7 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. (6) And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth,*

which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. (7) But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. In Luke's account, we have the angels giving these women a mild rebuke before reminding them of what Jesus had said. ***Luke 24:6-8 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, (7) saying, the son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. (8) And they remembered his words.***

JEW'S REACTION. ***Matt 28:11-15** Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. (12) And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, (13) Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. (14) And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.* What took place here is truly amazing. The Roman guards finally came to their senses and went into the city to tell the chief priests what had happened. Naturally this concerned them, and they immediately called an assembly with the counsel, and they agreed to buy off the soldiers. Notice v 12 that they gave them large sums of money to lie and say, *"The disciples came by night and stole the body while we slept."*

The guards were apparently concerned that this would get back to the governor because if a guard let a prisoner escape, or in this case the body stolen, then it could mean their death, or at the least a loss of position and rank. The counsel assured the guards that this would not happen, and if it did, they would persuade the governor to do nothing to the guards. ***(15) So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.***

Now if I were the people hearing this story, I'd question the guards and ask:

"You are the guards protecting the tomb, right? "Yes sir."

"While on guard, some disciples came and took the body?" "Yes, that right."

"You are sure it was his disciples?" "Yes, we are sure."

“Why didn’t you try to stop them? That’s why you were there, right?” “Yes, but we were asleep.”

“Asleep! If you were asleep, then how do you know it was Jesus’ disciples?”

Perhaps this was not such a far-fetched idea because Mary Magdalene thought someone had taken the body. *John 20:1-2 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.* Later after Peter and John had run to the tomb and found it empty, she still thought someone had taken the body.

John 20:11-14 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. This was Jesus’ first personal appearance after his resurrection. *Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene.*

Well, back to the women. It seems that Mary Magdalene had left the other women as soon as she saw the stone rolled away and did not see the angels or hear their words of comfort. These women did as the angels instructed them. *Matt 28:9-10 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. (10) Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.*

Well, the women went to the disciples and told them what had happened, and Luke tells us that the disciples didn’t believe them. *Luke 24:11-12 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. (12) Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.*

OTHER VISITS BY JESUS. After the women told the apostles their news about the resurrected Jesus, two of Jesus' disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus. Emmaus was about seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. As they were traveling, their conversation gives us a little insight into what they were thinking. Jesus joins them, but they do not recognize him. They walk along together, and they tell Him about how their rulers had condemned Jesus and how He was crucified three days ago. ***Luke 24:21*** ***But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done.***

They were expecting Jesus to restore a physical Israel, but that was not the kingdom He died to establish. Later in the day, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus for who He was, and then He vanished from their sight.

Then we have the incident with ten apostles. Judas was dead, and Thomas was missing. ***John 20:19-21*** ***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. (21) Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*** Eight days later, Jesus made a similar visit to his disciples, and this time Thomas was present.

John 20:26-31 ***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.*** There is no evidence that Thomas ever thrust his hand into the wounds of Jesus. He had seen enough to convince him that this Jesus was legitimate. Then Jesus talks about us. ***blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*** Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes from hearing and

Lesson 8 – the Resurrection

hearing by the word of God. We cultivate our faith based on what we read and learn from scripture. *(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.*

In John 21 Jesus showed himself again to some of his disciples. Six of them were fishing on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus appeared one morning. They had fished all night and not caught anything. Jesus instructed them to cast their nets on the other side of the boats, and when they did, they caught 153 great fish. After having fish for breakfast, Jesus talked with them. *John 21:14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.* It was during this conversation that Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” And three times Peter affirmed his love for the Lord. Perhaps the questions were for the three denials, but regardless, from this time forward, Peter was indeed the rock that the Lord knew him to be.

Jump now over to 1 Cor. 15. Here we see another incident where Jesus was seen by people after his resurrection. Speaking of Jesus, Paul writes: *1 Cor. 15:5-7- “And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: (6) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. (7) After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.* It should have been clear that no one stole the body of Jesus because he was seen by too many people. Notice *Acts 1:3 ... shewed himself alive ... by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”*

ASCENSION. After a time of forty days, it was time to return to the Father in heaven. Before He leaves, He has some final instructions for His apostles. For one, He tells them they are to evangelize the world. *Matt. 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* We call this the “great commission”.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

A second thing the Lord told the apostles to do was to stay in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4) Gathering the apostles' together Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the Father's promise. Then the Lord added, (5) ***For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*** Then we read in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost that these apostles did indeed receive this power. ***Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*** After giving these instructions, He departed and rose out of their sight into heaven.

Acts 1:8-11-“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (9) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; (11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

Jesus is coming back one day for his spiritual body, the church. When he comes he is going to deliver that body to his Father in heaven. ***1 Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*** Are you part of that body, the kingdom?

Invitation