

The Last Five Days in The Life of Jesus Christ

Notes by Franklin

Sunday: The Triumphal Entry Matthew 21:1-11

This event occurred on the **tenth day** of the month according to Exodus 12:3 when "the Passover lamb" was selected and taken in to "the father's household." **Five days** before it was to be slain and eaten on the **fourteenth day** (Exodus 12:6).

Thursday: The Last Passover / The Lord's Supper

On the "first day of unleavened Bread" is when the Passover is eaten at evening (Exodus 12:18). That year it was Thursday.

Matthew 26:17-35 Now on the **first day of Unleavened Bread** the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" (26) While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is My body.** (27) And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, **Drink from it, all of you; (28) for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.** (29) But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

Luke 22:14-23;

John 13-16 Washes His Disciples feet and teaches them

The Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-46

Matthew 26:37-41 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. (38) Then He said to them, **My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.** (39) And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, **My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.** (40) And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, **So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? (41) Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest Matthew 26:47-56

(57) Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to **Caiaphas**, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. (58) But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the officers to see

the outcome. (59) Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death. (60) They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, (61) and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.'" (62) The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" (63) But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, I charge You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God? (64) Jesus said to him, **You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.** (67) Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him.

Peter denied Him three times

Matthew 26:69-75 (74) Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a rooster crowed. (75) And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, **Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.** And he went out and wept bitterly.

Friday . . . but Sunday is coming:

Jesus Before Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2 Now when **morning** came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; (2) and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to **Pilate** the governor.

John 18:33-38 Therefore Pilate . . . said to Him, "**Are You the King of the Jews?**" (34) Jesus answered, **Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?** (35) Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" (36) Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.** (37) Therefore Pilate said to Him, "**So You are a king?**" Jesus answered, **You say correctly that I am a king.** For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to **the truth**. Everyone who is **of the truth** hears **My voice**. (38) Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "**I find no guilt in Him.**"

Barabbas Released, JESUS Condemned

Matthew 27:15-18 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the people any one prisoner whom they wanted. (16) At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. (17) So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, "**Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?**" (20) But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and **to put Jesus to death.** (21) But the governor said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" **And they said, "Barabbas."** (22) Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" **They all said, "Crucify Him!"** (23) And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But **they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!"** (24) When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." (25) **And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!"** (26) Then he released Barabbas for them; but **after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.**

The Crown of Thorns

John 19:2-15 And the soldiers twisted together **a crown of thorns** and put it on His head, and put a **purple robe** on Him; (3) and they began to come up to Him and say, "**Hail, King of the Jews!**" and to give Him **slaps on the face.** (4) Pilate came out again and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that **I find no guilt in Him.**" (5) Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "**Behold, the Man!**" (6) So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "**Crucify, crucify!**" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for **I find no guilt in Him.**" (7) The Jews answered him, "**We have a law,** and by that law He ought to die because **He made Himself out to be the Son of God.**" (8) Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid; (9) and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. (10) So Pilate said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" (11) Jesus answered, **You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.**

(12) As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar."

(13) Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. (14) Now it was the **day of preparation for the Passover**; it was about the sixth hour (six a.m. Roman time). And he said to the Jews, "**Behold, your King!**" (15) So they cried out, "**Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!**" Pilate said to them, "**Shall I crucify your King?**" The chief priests answered, "**We have no king but Caesar.**"

The Crucifixion

John 19:16-30 So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified. (17) They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, **bearing His own cross**, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. (18) There **they crucified Him**, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between.

The Seven Words of Jesus From The Cross:

His First Word:

A Prayer for the ones driving the nails into His Hands and Feet.
Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

Luke 23:34

The Supreme Example of Love

Love Forgives! Regardless of the offense and pain.

1 Corinthians 13:5 love does not . . . seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and **made intercession for the transgressors.**

John 19:19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." (20) Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek. (21) So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" (22) Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

His crucifixion lasted **six hours**, from 9am to 3pm.

Mark 15:25 **It was the third hour*** when they crucified Him.

*the third hour of the day, 9am

Luke 23:35-39 And the people stood by, looking on. And even the **rulers were sneering** at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him **save Himself** if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One. (36) And **the soldiers also** mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, (37) and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, **save Yourself!** (38) Now there was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." (39) And **one of the criminals** who were hanged was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? **Save Yourself and us!**"

1 Corinthians 13:5 **Love is not provoked It puts the needs of others before his own, at whatever the cost.**

He could have saved Himself. It was not nails that held Him on that cross. **It was His Love for people.**

I can appeal to My Father, and He will provide Me more than twelve legions of angels? Matthew 26:53

(40) But **the other answered**, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (41) "And **we indeed are suffering justly**, for we are receiving what **we deserve** for our deeds; but **this man has done nothing wrong.**" (42) And he was saying, "**Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!**"

This passage, along with many others, reveals that there are two kinds of people on earth. Those that have Revelation, that have Faith, and Believe and those who do not.

Jesus' Second Word From The Cross:

More concerned for others than for self. **Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.**" Luke 23:43

This is an amazing word as Death was fast approaching.

1Cor.13:5 **Love does not seek it's own**

Romans 10:13 **Whoever will call** on the name of the LORD **will be saved.**

John 19:23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. (24) So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be"; this was to fulfill the Scripture: "they divided my outer garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." (Psalm 22:19) (25) Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Jesus' Third Word From The Cross: Still Concerned for Others.

(26) When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, **Woman, behold, your son!**

(27) Then He said to the disciple, **Behold, your mother!** From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

Love Provides - Takes Care of Others – Does not seek its own.
Never fails. (1Cor.13:5,8)

Jesus' Forth Word from The Cross:

John 19:28-30 After this, Jesus, knowing that **all things had already been accomplished**, to fulfill the Scripture, said, **I am thirsty.** (29) A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth.

Only after His mission was completed, forgiveness of sin and salvation for His own was completed, did HE think of HIS own needs.

Love . . . does not seek its own (1Cor.13:7).

Jesus' Fifth Word from The Cross:

(30) Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **it is finished!**

Mission Accomplished: Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 17:4-5 I glorified You on the earth, having **accomplished the work which You have given Me to do**. (5) Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Love Never Fails! (1Cor.13:8) NEVER GIVES UP! Endures all things (1Cor.13:7) Suffers all things for others.

Jesus' Sixth Word From The Cross:

Matthew 27:45-46 Now from the sixth hour (noon) **darkness** fell upon all the land until the ninth hour (3pm). (46) About the **ninth hour** Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, **Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?** that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

"**Darkness**" at midday? Because the "Light of the world" was going out, being made sin for us.

God the Father looked away from HIS SON.

It appeared that sin and death were victorious.

Forsaken? The Father and the Son are One! For the first time in all eternity there was a **separation** between The Father and The Son.

Why? Why was there a separation in the Godhead?

The answer: It was at this point that: He made **Him** who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor.5:21)

This verse declares one of the most profound truths in the Bible. Stop right here. Read the verse again, slowly. Think about it . . .

This is what sin does: But your iniquities have **separated you from your God**; your sins have **hidden his face from you**, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2

Why would HE who is without sin, HE who is HOLY, be willing to become sin???

Answer: **People are that SPECIAL and VALUABLE to HIM.**

1 Cor.13:7 Love bears all things . . . endures all things for others.

Jesus' Seventh Word from The Cross:

Luke 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, **Father, into your hands I commit my spirit**. When he had said this, **he breathed his last**.

Mark 15:37-39 And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and **breathed His last**. (38) And the **veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**. (39) When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

- From "top to bottom" could only be done by the LORD.
- This was the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, and the time when the **Passover lamb was killed** (Exodus 12:6; Deuteronomy 16:6)
- I am sure the priest was exceedingly shocked and scared when the Temple Vail was torn.
- And **Christ our Passover was sacrificed** (1Cor.5:7). **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!** (John 1:29). As Abraham said to his son: **God will provide for Himself THE LAMB** for the burnt offering, my son. (Genesis 22:8) **And indeed HE did!**
- The tearing of the veil declared that the **way to heaven was now open to all**. The great **High Priest**, the Lord Jesus, being about to enter in as the forerunner of his people.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful **HIGH PRIEST** in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 6:20 Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a **HIGH PRIEST** forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 9:11-12 But when Christ appeared as a **HIGH PRIEST** of the good things to come, He entered through the **greater** and more **perfect tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; (12) and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own blood**, He entered the HOLY PLACE once for all, having obtained **eternal redemption**.

- The tearing meant the end of the Law separating Jew from Gentile.

Ephesians 2:12-19 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ**. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and **broke down the barrier of the dividing wall**, (15) by abolishing in His flesh (His death) **the enmity, which is the Law of commandments** contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the **two into one new man**, thus establishing peace, (16) and might **reconcile them both in one body** to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (17) "And HE came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near" (18) for through **Him we both have our access** in one Spirit **to the Father**. (19) So then **you are no longer strangers and aliens**, but **you are fellow citizens** with the saints, and **are of God's household**.

- And **now all mankind has access** and **may come to the LORD** if and when they want.

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us **draw near** with **confidence** to the **throne of grace**, so that **we may receive mercy** and **find grace to help** in time of need.

Matthew 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom and **the earth shook and the rocks were split**.

He who holds all things together . . . was dying. There was chaos in the earth.

Colossians 1:17 . . . in Him all things hold together.

John 19:31-42 Then the Jews, because it was the **day of preparation**, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their **legs might be broken**, and that they might be taken away. (32) So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; (33) but coming to Jesus, **when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs**. (34) But one of the soldiers **pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out**. (35) And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. (36) For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "**Not a bone of Him shall be broken**" (Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20). (37) And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on HIM whom they pierced" (Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7).

(38) After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being **a disciple** of Jesus, but a **secret one** for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. (39) **Nicodemus**, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. (40) So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. (41) Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. (42) Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

HE WAS DEAD. IT WAS OVER. FINISHED. NO HOPE.

The Disciples: confused – crying – running - hiding.

In all of their confusion and unending discussions with questions like:

"Were we deceived?" "What about all the miracles we saw?"

Perhaps the Disciples were also discussing another prophetic word that Jesus repeated several times to them:

The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed **and be raised up on the third day**. Luke 9:22

Perhaps, just perhaps, there is still hope

The Soldiers: returning to their camp, their entertainment was over.

The Priests and the Mob: happy - greatly relieved that this "troublemaker" was dead – celebrating their mission accomplished.

The demons - having a hellish celebration, seeing their un-touchable enemy, nailed to a tree and dying. They squealed in delight.

Satan - watched in hopeful glee, as the Son of God was led toward Calvary and being crucified. His assurance of victory, and his pride rose higher still, when to his amazement the Righteous One was made to be with sin.

Death - boldly took hold of LIFE and moved in for the kill.

The CREATOR was dying, darkness and chaos covered His work. The earth was shaking, rocks were breaking and satan watched with a smirk.

Yet again, **Death** reigned supreme, empowered by sin, they were a formidable team, having never lost a victim.

1 Corinthians 15:55 [The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;](#)

IT WAS FRIDAY, IT WAS OVER. Satan, Sin and Death had seemingly won yet another victory. And this was the greatest of all victories for them.

BUT SUNDAY IS COMING !

We must ask ourselves, **WHY?** Why would the Son of God be born into this world as a man and endure all of this? ? ? ?

There is only one answer. **HE MUST LOVE PEOPLE (YOU!) MORE THAN WE CAN COMPREHEND.**

The humiliation, the suffering, the pain, His death to forgive our sins and redeem mankind, all declare **the VALUE OF PEOPLE TO HIM.**

PEOPLE ARE THE GREATEST TREASURE ON THIS EARTH !

You are His Precious Diamond. His Valuable Treasure !

Saturday . . . but Sunday is coming!

Matthew 27:62-66 Now on the **next day**, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, (63) and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, '**After three days I am to rise again.**' (64) Therefore, give orders for **the grave to be made secure** until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." (65) Pilate said to them, "**You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.**" (66) And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

Sunday Morning, early The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28 Now **after the Sabbath** (Saturday), as it **began to dawn** toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. (2) And behold, **a severe earthquake had occurred**, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and **rolled away the stone** and sat upon it. (see Mt.27:52-53) (3) And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. (4) The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men (the guards were still there). (5) The angel said to the

women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. (6) **"He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.** Come, see the place where He was lying. (7) "Go quickly and tell His disciples **that He has risen from the dead**; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

John 20:2-10 So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." (3) So **Peter** and the **other disciple** went forth, and they were going to the tomb. (4) The two were **running** together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; (5) and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. (6) And so **Simon Peter** also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he **saw the linen wrappings** lying there, (7) and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. (8) So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. (9) For as yet **they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.** (10) So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

The **grave clothes** found in the empty tomb are **proof** of the resurrection. Had friend or foe stolen the body, they would have left the grave clothes wrapped around the body, since He had been dead three days and nights. When John saw the grave clothes and recognized that they were folded the same as when they were wrapped about the body, he knew that a miracle had taken place. Jesus came out of the clothes, and they collapsed without disturbing the folds. They were left in the empty tomb as "infallible proof" and when John saw and understood, he believed that Jesus had come from the dead. (from Porter Barrington's Master Outlines and Notes)

Matthew 28:8 And they (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary) left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. (9) And behold, **Jesus met them** and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. (10) Then Jesus said to them, **Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.** (11) Now while they were on their way, **some of the guard** came into the city and **reported to the chief priests** all that had happened. (12) And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they **gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,** (13)

and said, "**You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'**" (14) "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." (15) And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

- The disciples lacked the courage to fight with the Guards. They were hiding in fear for their lives. They thought it was all over.
- Had they stolen the body, then how do you account for the fact that they all suffered, and most of them died a martyr's death? In the face of death, one of them would have revealed the hiding place of the "stolen body" to save his own life.
- No one was ever arrested or tried for stealing the body of Jesus. It is evident that the governing officials did not believe the story of the guards or they would have arrested some of His disciples.
- The guard could have been put to death for sleeping while on watch. But they were not arrested, showing the authorities did not believe this story.
- If they were asleep, how could they have known that it was the disciples who "stole" the body? To know it was the Disciples they would have seen them and stopped them.
- Had the enemies of Jesus moved the body, they could have produced it and brought a quick end to Christianity.

John 20:19-29 So when it was **evening on that day**, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, **for fear** of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in their midst** and said to them, **Peace be with you**. (20) And when He had said this, He **showed** them both His **hands** and His **side**. **The disciples then rejoiced** when they saw the Lord. (21) So Jesus said to them again, **Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you**. (22) And when He had said this, **He breathed on them** and said to them, **Receive the Holy Spirit**. (23) **If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.**

Sin had been **forgiven** and **removed**.

So NOW the HOLY SPIRIT could dwell "**in**" these Disciples. They were "**Born Again**" on Resurrection Day!

(24) But **Thomas**, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) So the other disciples were saying to him, "**We have seen the Lord!**" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

(26) **After eight days** His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, **Peace be with you.** (27) Then He said to Thomas, **Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.** (28) Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**" (29) Jesus said to him, **Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**

The Great Commission

Matthw 28:16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. (17) When **they saw Him**, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. (18) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, **All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** (19) **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20) **teaching them** to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The Unique Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Most of the world's religions are based on philosophical propositions. Of the four that are based on personalities **only Christianity claims an empty tomb for its founder.**

In the original accounts there is no claim of a resurrection for Buddha. Mohammed died June 8, 632 A.D., at the age of sixty-one, at Medina, where his tomb is annually visited by thousands of devout Mohammedans.

Abraham, the father of Judaism, died about 1900 B.C., but no resurrection has ever been claimed for him.

Jesus predicted His resurrection many times and also emphasized His rising from the dead would be the "sign" to authenticate His claims to be the Messiah.

Matthew 12:38-40 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." . . . for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be **three days** and three nights **in the heart of the earth**.

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed**, and be **raised up** on the third day.

Matthew 17:9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man **has risen from the dead**.

Matthew 17:22-23 And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; (23) and they will kill Him, and **He will be raised** on the third day. And they were deeply grieved.

Matthew 20:18-19 Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, (19) and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and **on the third day He will be raised up**.

Matthew 26:32 But after **I have been raised**, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Matthew 27:63 and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, '**After three days I am to rise again.**'"

No founder of any religion or leader of people, other than Jesus Christ, has ever dared to say that He would rise from the dead after his death. Because if he did not rise, it would end his movement.

Jesus Christ boldly prophesied it and on the third day it happened and Christianity was born never to be stopped because we serve a RISEN SAVIOR.

He showed Himself alive after many infallible proofs. Acts 1:3

EYE WITNESSES:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene | John 20: 11-18 |
| 2. To the women returning from the sepulcher. | Matthew 28: 5-10 |
| 3. To Peter | Luke 24: 34 |
| 4. The Emmaus disciples. | Luke 24: 13-31 |
| 5. The apostles | Luke 24: 36-43 |
| 6. The apostles and Thomas | John 20: 24-29 |
| 7. The seven by the sea of Tiberias. | John 21: 1-23 |
| 8. To over five hundred | 1 Cor. 15: 6 |
| 9. To James | 1 Cor. 15: 7 |
| 10. Again by the eleven | Matt 28: 16-20 |
| 11. Stephen, the first martyr. | Acts 7: 55 |
| 12. Paul, on his way to Damascus. | Acts 9: 3-6; 1 Cor. 15: 8 |

Many of these eye **witnesses died martyr's deaths** because they preached the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They were glad to die for a living Christ. They had the "**infallible proofs.**"

When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, all of His disciples "**forsook Him and fled**" (Matthew 26: 56). From this time until after His resurrection, the disciples lived in fear. They did not believe that He would rise from the dead (John 20: 9). If Jesus had not come from the dead, the cross would have been the end of Christianity.

After the death of Jesus, we see His disciples dejected, discouraged and defeated. The death of Jesus meant but one thing to them: the end. **How do we account for the great change** that came into their lives three days and three night later? The only logical explanation is that they had the "**infallible proofs**" that **He had risen from the dead**, and was alive forevermore. They saw Him, talked with Him, touched Him and ate with Him.

The change in the lives of the disciples from fear to unlimited courage is proof that **they knew He was alive**. They rejoiced in persecution (Acts 5: 40-42). They chose death, with faith in the resurrected Christ, rather than to deny that faith and save their lives (Hebrews 11: 35).

The early church began to worship on the first day of the week , the day of the resurrection. It was not a law, it was spontaneous (Acts 20: 7). For the Christian, every Sunday is celebrates His resurrection.

The early Christians went everywhere proclaiming the resurrection (Acts 8).

CONCLUSION: **The Lord is risen indeed** Luke 24:34

Jesus Christ **was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead** Romans 1:4

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now **Christ has been raised from the dead**, the first fruits of those who are asleep. (21) For since by a man came death, by a man also came the **resurrection of the dead**. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ all will be made alive**.

John 14:19 . . **you will see Me, because I live, you will live also**.

Here is the record:

Confucius' tomb	-	occupied
Buddha's tomb	-	occupied
Mohammed's tomb	-	occupied
Jesus Christ's' tomb	-	EMPTY!

The decision is NOW YOURS TO MAKE. The evidence speaks for itself.

It says very clearly:

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

HE IS UNIQUE! A ONE AND ONLY. DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS. HAVING NO EQUAL.

JESUS, . . . who for the **joy** set before Him **endured the cross, despising the shame** (Hebrews 12:2) . . . having offered **one sacrifice for sins for all time**, sat down at the right hand of God, **waiting** from that time onward until HIS enemies be made a footstool for HIS feet. (Heb.10:12-13)

He finished His work. Now He is WAITING on us to finish our work. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.
Matthew 24:14