

The Saturday Before Sunrise

Introduction

a. objectives

1. subject – a discussion of the *possible* events of the Saturday before the Resurrection of Jesus
2. aim – to cause us to appreciate more the fact that when the sun rose, the Son rose
3. passage – Mark 15:42-47

b. outline

1. The Events of that Fateful Saturday

c. opening

1. a gathering at **sunrise** leads us to think about where we are at

I. The Events of that Fateful Saturday

Content

a. what the various “players” are doing on the Saturday before Easter

1. **Judas** – he’s gone (of course); Matthew’s account seems to indicate that Judas has his great remorse of conscience the next morning after the Betrayal (**i.e.** Friday), and hangs himself later that same day
2. **the Eleven** – they are “holed up” (probably in the Upper Room in Jerusalem)
 - a. after they have come back from being scattered away; John to the foot of the cross
 - b. along with Jesus’ mother, the other women, and a number of others (**e.g.** Nicodemus)
 - c. waiting for the authorities to come and arrest them, although that is unlikely
 - d. probably discussing what it all meant and where they were going to go from here
3. **the religious leadership** – they are nervously “happy” that the situation is over
 - a. thankful that the “head” of this anti-Temple movement is gone and business can return to normal
 - b. they are the *only* ones to understand the implications of Jesus’ words regarding “the third day”
 - c. in posting a guard, they are simply waiting for the “third day” to come and go
4. **the crowds** – returning blissfully to their apathy and ignorance of the significance of Friday’s events
 - a. carrying on with their religious customs (**i.e.** Passover) oblivious to anything about to come
5. **the Romans** – returning blissfully to their apathy and to their focus on socio-political matters
6. **the Devil and his minions** – celebrating the defeat of their most formidable enemy
 - a. believing that they had eliminated the greatest prophet that God had sent to the Jews
 1. one they had watched closely from his conception, and seen the various signs of him healing disease, teach profound truth, and (even) raising the dead
 - b. even though their understanding of the full breadth of Jesus’ nature had probably *eluded* them
 1. they called him “Son of God,” but that may not indicate they understood him to *be God*
 2. that revelation became “obvious” once Jesus rises and the Spirit comes
 - c. nonetheless, they have “done away with” one that posed the greatest threat they had ever known
 1. for the entire Sabbath day, they would celebrate that he was dead, and they could now go on unhindered in their resistance to the plans of God in the world

b. what the Saturday before Easter represents

1. **IMO**: the *darkest day* (metaphorically) in human history
 - a. contra Pearl Harbor, 9/11, even the Dark Ages
 - b. the day where evil reigned – the belief by Satan that he had successfully killed one that might just actually restore what Adam had ruined (the human through whom he had brought such evil into the world)
2. **but, as the sun rose to dispel the night, so the Son rose to dispel the darkness of evil**
 - a. as Jesus walked out of the tomb, he smiled back over his shoulder at the dejected Satan
 1. he had succeeded in conquering the results of Adam’s defeat
 - b. as Jesus walked out of the tomb, Satan knew that the “seed” of the woman was actually God himself in flesh, and that the “seed” had (in fact) crushed his head
 1. he had only “bruised the heel” of Jesus – he hadn’t actually done away with him
3. **all of the darkness of evil and death that had settled over the world was now broken – a new dawn had dawned, and the light of salvation was now fully visible in the eastern sky**