

Pentwater Bible Church

Gospel of Mark
Message 62
July 19, 2015



The Resurrection of Christ by Rembrandt Cir 1635-39

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Mark
Message 62
The Burial & Resurrection Part I
July 19, 2015
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The Entombment By Caravaggio Cir 1602-03

THE BURIAL & RESURRECTION

Mark 15:42-16:14

⁴² And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. ⁴⁵ And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre, which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

XVI. ¹ And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. ² And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. ³ And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? ⁴ And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. ⁵ 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. ⁸ And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

⁹ Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. ¹⁰ And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. ¹² After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. ¹³ And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

¹⁴ Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen (KJV).

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA CLAIMS THE BODY OF JESUS

Mark 15:42-43

⁴² And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus (KJV).

It was now Friday afternoon the 16th of Nisan after 3:00 PM and Jesus was dead. Mark describes the concept of the preparation for his Roman audience. The Jews would have viewed this time period of 3:00 to 6:00 PM as evening since dusk would begin the next day on their reckoning, which was the weekly Sabbath. Jesus died at 3:00 PM and there was only three hours left in the day to complete the normal preparations for the Sabbath.

This was the day of week in which the Jews prepared their basic needs so as to avoid work on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8–11; Matthew 12:1–14; John 9:14–16). Some of those tasks were the preparation of food, completing any lingering work, and ritual spiritual purification. The Hebrew day began and ended at dusk, which was about 6:00 p.m., so the day of preparation extended from 6:00 p.m. on Thursday until the beginning of the Sabbath at 6:00 p.m. Friday. Many commercial enterprises ended their day early on Friday to accommodate the preparations. As an example the righteous king Josiah kept the Passover according to the Mosaic Law when the First Temple was operational after his restorative efforts.

II Chronicles 35:1-4

And Josiah kept a Passover unto Jehovah in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. ² And he set the priests in their offices, and encouraged them to the service of the house of Jehovah. ³ And he said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, that were holy unto Jehovah, *Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of*

Israel did build; there shall no more be a burden upon your shoulders: now serve Jehovah your God, and his people Israel. ⁴And prepare yourselves after your fathers' houses by your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son (ASV, 1901).

In Josiah's 18th year as king when he was about twenty-six years old and the Temple had been repaired (34:8), he celebrated the Passover. In the preparation he instructed the priests and the Levites to carry out their specific responsibilities for the preparation. They were instructed to leave the Ark in the temple. In the wilderness they carried it about before there was a permanent place for it. They could now attend to other preparation activities. First, they were to divide up by their stated divisions as David had instructed (1 Chronicles 24), and Solomon reaffirmed (2 Chronicles 8:14). In the court of the Temple they were to perform their ministry on behalf of the people according to each tribe.

Next the priests and Levites were to slaughter the Passover lambs and prepare them for consumption by the people (II Chronicles 30:16–17). The generous king provided for the people 30,000 sheep and goats and 3,000 cattle. Josiah's religious leaders also gave generously. Finally, the chief priests gave their fellow priests 2,600 Passover offerings (sheep and goats) and 300 cattle while the heads of the Levites gave their Levitical colleagues 5,000 Passover offerings (sheep and goats) and 500 cattle. This is the background of the preparation that was made under a righteous king in Judah.

The Feast of Passover was immediately followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:1–7). No one worked on either of these holy days, so a day of preparation was needed to prepare for the holiday period (John 19:14). The apostle John explicitly identified the day of preparation as the day of Jesus' execution (John 19:14, 31, 42).

The arrangements for burial had to be completed prior to sundown according to the Mosaic Law. It was against the Law to leave a dead body exposed overnight. In spite of the religious leaders violation of their own Law during Jesus arrest, accusation and trial they now would proceed with an artificial adherence to the Law.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

²²And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree; ²³his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt surely bury him the same day; for he that is hanged is accursed of God; that thou defile not thy land which Jehovah thy God giveth thee for an inheritance (ASV, 1901).

As the evening approached some time before 6:00 PM Joseph of Arimathea who was a member of the Sanhedrin came to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. John says that Joseph like Nicodemus was a secret disciple of Jesus (John 19:38). He came from a town about twenty miles from Jerusalem. It was northwest of Lydda and east of Joppa. Joseph is said to have *also waited for the kingdom of God*, which meant that he was a true saint and secret follower of Jesus. Even though he was a member of the Sanhedrin he opposed the killing of Jesus (Luke 23:51) and was now risking his political future by *boldly* going to Pilate. It is only Mark who writes of this event. Joseph was now exposing his true allegiance to Jesus in front of the other religious rulers.

The Romans required that in order to release a crucified man's corpse approval by the imperial magistrate was required. This request was usually made by and granted to the dead person's relatives. Sometimes though to make an example of the person's crime the Romans would leave a body on the cross for many days to decay and be eaten by predatory birds and animals. The remains were then thrown into a common unspecified grave. However, Jewish law required a proper burial for all bodies, even those of executed criminals and they had to be buried before sunset (Mishnah *Sanhedrin* 6: 5; Deuteronomy 21:22-23). These factors gave him some sense of urgency to retrieve Jesus' body. There were two factors of Joseph's request that might be used to deny him his request. *One*, he was not related to Jesus and *Two*, the accusation and execution of Jesus was for treason.

PILATE IS AMAZED

Mark 15:44-45

⁴⁴ And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. ⁴⁵ And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph (KJV).

Pilate was quite taken aback by the request since he did not think Jesus would die so quickly. It was highly unusual that death came so soon to Jesus. Many who were crucified lasted several days but Jesus died after only six hours. This death was unique. Jesus' death was voluntary and when His atonement was complete He dismissed His Spirit. Pilate ordered a centurion to verify the death of Jesus. Even though the Jews had just requested that they brake the legs of Jesus and the two thieves to quickly hasten death by asphyxiation (John 19:31), Pilate did not think it would occur this fast. The smashing of the lower leg bones was called the *crurifragium* in Latin. When the soldiers came to break the legs they realized that Jesus was already dead so they pierced His side with a spear instead of performing the *crurifragium* to verify His death and out came water and blood. This was a fulfillment of prophecy. Exodus 12:46 prohibited breaking any bones in the paschal lamb and Zechariah 12:10 states that they will look on Him whom they have pierced. While fully God Jesus was also fully human and this shows His humanity in the death. One reason Mark told this aspect of the story is to counter the heresies of Gnosticism and Docetism which both denied the Incarnation and Jesus' death. The blood and water firmly refute those heretical ideologies, which were prevalent in the first century.

After verification by the reliable eyewitness Roman centurion, Pilate gave the body to Joseph. Again another unique aspect of this story told only by Mark is the death corroboration request by Pilate.

JOSEPH PROVIDES FOR THE BURIAL

Mark 15:46-47

⁴⁶ And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre, which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Josès beheld where he was laid (KJV).

Joseph a wealthy man bought a fine linen cloth and gently took Jesus' body down from the cross. He had help to be sure including Nicodemus a fellow Sanhedrin member. They might have secretly agreed earlier to meet and have Him buried (John 19:39-40) because Nicodemus contributed about one hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes for the embalment. After they wrapped Him according to Jewish tradition they placed Him in a new family tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. They rolled a large stone in front of the opening to close off the tomb. "In the Mark 16:4 portion of the Bezae manuscripts in the Cambridge Library in England, a parenthetical statement was found that adds, 'And when He was laid there, he (Joseph) put against the tomb a stone which 20 men could not roll away.'" ¹ If the stone weighed that much, how then could Joseph of Arimathea roll the stone into place by himself? Probably the stone was on an incline and wedged maybe with another stone. After finishing the burial of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea would have removed the wedged stone, pushed the large stone down the incline, and let it roll into place in front of the entrance to the tomb. Therefore the stone must have been rolled up a slope away not just from the entrance of the tomb, but from the entire massive sepulcher.

The religious leaders watched where Jesus was buried. They stationed guards by the tomb and sealed the stone to make sure that Jesus' body would not be stolen claiming that He had risen from the dead (Matthew 27:62-66).

HELP FROM THE WOMEN

Mark 15:47

⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid (KJV).

Two of the women who watch the crucifixion came and watched the body being carried to the tomb because they intended to come after the Sabbath and apply their own spices and anoint Jesus' body.

THE WOMEN COME

Mark 16:1-3

¹And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. ²And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. ³And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre (KJV)?

These women had been at the cross and watched Joseph of Arimathea get Jesus' body down from the cross, anoint it and place it in the tomb as well see the stone rolled in front of the opening. They went home, kept the Sabbath according to the Mosaic Law and returned early Sunday morning with burial spices. The purpose of anointing was not so much as to embalm or prevent bodily decay but to perfume the decaying corpse as an act of devotion. They knew the size of the huge stone and were asking one another how they would get the stone rolled away from the tomb so they could anoint Jesus' body.

¹ McDowell, John. *The Resurrection Factor*, Here's Life Publisher, San Bernardino, CA 1981 pg. 53.

HE IS NOT THERE!

Mark 16:-8

⁴ *And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.* ⁵ *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.* ⁸ *And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.*

Upon arrival they immediately realized that the massive stone had already been rolled away from the tomb. The earthquake that occurred and this as well as the angels caused the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb to be so scared that they fled (Matthew 28:1-2). They were sent to guard the tomb but they never expected something of this magnitude. They were risking severe discipline such as flogging for leaving their post in doing this.

So the ladies went inside the tomb and saw a young man sitting the right side of the inside of the tomb. This was an angel. Angels frequently appear in human form as young men. Matthew's gospel says, "*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* (Matthew 28:1-2). Luke corroborates this by stating that there were two men, "*suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel* (Luke 24:4)." John's gospel states that it was two angels" (John 20:1-2,12) An angel of the Lord moved the stone and was sitting upon it outside (Matthew 28:2). The two men (Luke 24:4) were angels (John 20:12). The Mark 16:5 passage just describes the angel inside. Combining all the accounts we see that there was one angel outside and another on the inside of the tomb. This caused the women to become afraid. The angel inside comforted them by saying, *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.* Once they heard the angel's description of the resurrection and were given instructions to immediately tell the disciples as well as Peter that Jesus would be in Galilee. They were to go there and see Him. They then still afraid even though the angel said not to be afraid fled and talked to nobody along the way out. They probably thought no body would believe them. This is exactly what disciples did when hearing this for the first time (Luke 24:11). Only Peter went to the tomb as soon as he heard the women's account of the empty tomb (Luke 24:12).

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE

Mark 16:9-13

⁹ *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.* ¹⁰ *And she went*

and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.¹¹ And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.¹² After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.¹³ And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them (KJV).

Mary Magdalene was the first person to whom Jesus presented Himself. He had previously cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). This caused her to be wholly devoted to Him. For Jesus taught this principle by a parable, which ended with this verse: *Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little (Luke 7:47 KJV).* After seeing Him she immediately went to tell His disciples. She found them mourning and weeping. After they listened to her they did not believe what she was saying. A short time later He appeared to the other two women confirming the angel's announcement and instructions to tell the disciples (Matthew 28:1, 9-10).

After the encounter with the women He appeared to two of His disciples who were walking on the road to Emmaus. Luke's account relates additional details.

Luke 24:13-31

¹³ And behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened.¹⁵ And it came to pass, that while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;²³ and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:²⁶ ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.²⁸ And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.²⁹ But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is towards evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.³⁰ And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to

them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight (KJV).

Emmaus is about seven miles northwest from Jerusalem. These two disciples one of who was named Cleopas (Luke 24:18) and other was unnamed were walking and discussing the events in Jerusalem surrounding Jesus' trial and death. While they were in deep discussion they realized that a man had started to walk alongside them. God prevented these men from realizing who the man was for it was Jesus. Jesus asked them what was the nature of their discussion. They were incredulous that anyone would not know what had happened in Jerusalem. They started to describe Jesus to Him still not realizing who they were talking to as a prophet who did wonderful miracles and was a mighty teacher. They went on to describe the terrible things the religious leaders and the Romans did to Him. They hoped that Jesus would have rescued Israel. They lost all hope when three days ago He was crucified and died. Following this they even affirmed the report of the women seeing the tomb opened with the angels saying that He was not there. They did not believe the women. Jesus then calls them fools for not knowing the Scriptures. He then embarked on an Old Testament Bible study with them to point out all the scriptures that said He must suffer and then be raised to glory. Still not realizing who this man is they invite Him into the inn where they were staying. He went in with them and while breaking bread suddenly they realized who He was and He immediately disappeared.

These two told others but they did not believe either. This is not surprising since this is the only person who has ever been resurrected. The same holds true today.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE ELEVEN

Mark 16:14

¹⁴ Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen (KJV).

Jesus appeared to them in His resurrected body, which was not limited to the normal constraints of time and space. He could appear at will without travelling in any customary manner. We will all get these bodies too. Paul affirms that this will be given to us.

Philippians 3:21

Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself (KJV).

1. It is a body of resurrection power
2. It is a spiritual body
3. It is a heavenly body
4. It is an immortal body
5. It is a body that is incorruptible
6. It is a glorified body

Some information may be gleaned from the resurrected Jesus' body, but we do not know what attributes are from the resurrection and which are attributed to His deity.

1. His voice was recognized as being the same one He had before His death. (John 20:16)
2. His physical features were recognized although not always immediately (John 20:26-29)
3. It was a real body of flesh and bone since it was embraceable (John 20:17; 27)
4. He was able to suddenly disappear (Luke 24:31)
5. He could go through walls (John 20:19)
6. His body could eat food (Luke 24:41-43)

Finally Jesus rebukes His apostles for not believing the eyewitness accounts of His resurrection. The Greek very used here is *oneidisen*, which is a very strong verb not used elsewhere of Jesus. This shows that their hardness of hearts prevented them from receiving the truth of the Resurrection in light of credible eyewitness accounts. He showed them His hand and feet and He even ate a piece of broiled fish. He said that all things must be fulfilled in the Law of Moses and proceed to explain the Scriptural prophecies of His death and resurrection. Thomas the apostle had previously said that he would not believe unless he saw the prints of the nails and saw placed his hand in Jesus side to feel the soldier's wound (John 20:25). During this meeting described here in Mark Thomas was present and Jesus said to him, "*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. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God*" (KJV).

NEXT WEEK: MARK: JESUS IS RESURRECTED PART II THE PROOF

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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