

Lesson 34 The Resurrection

Objective: To know that the resurrection of Jesus *has transformed "death" to "sleep"* for believers.

Background: "*It is finished*" said Jesus triumphantly as he was dying on the cross. He has accomplished the redemptive work for which He came to earth, namely to pay the penalty of sin; to die in the place of sinners. He was buried and on the third day (Sunday) rose from the dead and nevermore to die. *He has conquered death!* All the religions of the world worship "dead teachers," but Christians alone worship a "living Savior." *Jesus lives today!* That's essence of "the Good News" of Christianity. [Read "The Cross and The Resurrection."]

Instruction: Read carefully Mark 15:42-47; Matthew 27:62-62, 28: 15; Luke 23:50- 24:43 as if you were present at the scene.

Let's Think: About 4 or 5 p.m., Jesus was buried in haste because the Sabbath day, a holy day, officially begins at 6 p.m. It was unlawful for the Jews to leave body hanging on the cross overnight or to bury the dead on the Sabbath. They wrapped Jesus' body in a linen shroud and placed it in a near-by tomb which no one had used. Let us see what has happened since His death on the cross at 3 p.m., Friday.

1. Was Joseph of Arimathea courageous in asking for Jesus' body? (Mark.15:42-47; Luke 23: 50-53.) If so, why? How would you answer those who said that Jesus did not die; he fainted and revived in the coolness of the tomb? What evidence(s) do you give to show that Jesus indeed died. (Mark15:43-47; John 19:31-37)
2. To whom did it first occur that Jesus had spoken of rising from the dead? What security measure did they take? Why? (Matt 27:62-66) What did they do when they were confronted with *the empty tomb*? Explain. (Matt 28:11-15)
3. Had Jesus really claimed that He would raise from the dead? Substantiate your answer. Were the women expecting Jesus' resurrection when they went to the tomb on Sunday morning? (Luke 24:1-11) Did the women go to the wrong tomb as some said? Explain. (Luke 23:44, 24:12; Matt 28:1-10)
4. How did the disciples learn about Jesus' resurrection? Did they believe it? What did Peter and John see when they ran to the tomb? (John.20:3-7) How would you answer those who said that Jesus's body was stolen either by His disciples or His enemies? Give evidence that Jesus really rose from the dead *bodily*.
5. To whom did Jesus appear besides Mary Magdalene on Sunday morning? Read Luke 24:13-35; John 20:19-29; also 1 Cor. 15:5-7a. and list His appearances. What would be your answer to those who said that the disciples had hallucination? Explain.
6. What is the essence of the Gospel message? Read also 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. What makes Christianity differ from all other religions in the world? Explain.
7. Is there an answer to the questions of antiquity: Can mortal man be righteous before God? If a man die, shall he live again? (Job 4:17; 9:2; 14:14) Explain. What does Easter mean to you personally? Is it just another event in the religious calendar? Examine yourself.

Let's Remember: "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)