# Lesson 29 Matthew Chapter 27:57-66, 28:1-20 The Resurrection

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

1. In vs 52-53 it speaks of the resurrection of saints from their tombs after the Resurrection of Jesus. The catechism speaks of this as the long awaited release from Sheol, the abode of the dead, of the Old Testament saints. In the Nicene Creed, we “look forward to the resurrection of the dead.” Was this a resurrection of the body, as Jesus was raised and we look forward to on the Last Day, or a resurrection of the spiritual souls of the dead in Sheol awaiting the Resurrection of Jesus?

Matthew 27:52-53

52 tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

53 And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Catechism 633

633 Scripture calls the abode of the dead, to which the dead Christ went down, “hell”—Sheol in Hebrew or Hades in Greek— because those who are there are deprived of the vision of God. Such is the case for all the dead, whether evil or righteous, while they await the redeemer: which does not mean that their lot is identical, as Jesus shows through the parable of the poor man Lazarus who was received into “Abraham’s bosom”: “It is precisely these holy souls, who awaited their Savior in Abraham’s bosom, whom Christ the Lord delivered when he descended into hell.” Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him.

The Burial of Jesus

1. Matthew, the Apostle and writer of the Gospel, had fled at Jesus’ arrest like the other disciples. He was not an eyewitness to the trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin or the events before Pilate. How do you think he was able to find out the details of those events?

Matthew 27:57-61

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus.

58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.

59 Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen

60 and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

61 But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomB

Luke 23:50-51

50 Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council,

51 had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God.

The Guard at the Tomb

1. A. The chief priests and Pharisees were concerned someone would steal the body of Jesus and claim that Jesus had been raised from the dead. So, after they themselves had made sure the tomb was secure (vs 66), how did they inadvertently provide unanswerable proof of the Resurrection? With the tomb securely under their control, what undeniable proof was at their disposal had the Resurrection not, in fact, occurred?

Matthew 27:62-

62 The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate

63 and said, “Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, ‘After three days I will be raised up.’

64 Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’ This last imposture would be worse than the first.”

65 Pilate said to them, “The guard is yours; go secure it as best you can.”

66 So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

B For a guard to admit that he had been sleeping while on guard, was a dangerous thing to do, and still is. There is some debate whether the guard was Roman, temple guards, or a mixture. That they went to the chief priests first argues for the Temple Guard. Nevertheless, what is the serious flaw in the concocted story in vs 13?

Matthew 28:11-15

11 While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened.

12 They assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

13 telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.’

14 And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy [him] and keep you out of trouble.”

15 The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present [day].

C What makes the Resurrection crucial point of Christian faith?

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

16 For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised,

17 and if Christ has not been raised,6 your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.

1. A. Notice some key points in vs 1-2, 4

Matthew 28:1-10

1 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.

3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow.

4 The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.

5 Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.

6 He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, I have told you.”

8 Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.

9 And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

* How many witnesses are required to establish truth? How many women are present?
* What time of day did the women arrive?
* What was the status of the stone that sealed the entrance?
* Where were the guards?
* What was the condition of the guards?
* Where was Jesus?

B When the women encounter the Risen Lord, what did they and Jesus do that indicated that Jesus was alive and risen, indeed?

Commissioning of the Disciples.

1. A. Some have argued that the disciples were hallucinating, credulous yokels. Yet, they had been told numerous times to expect the Resurrection, they had been told by the women, and Peter and John had seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths. Still, what lingered in the minds of the disciples even as they saw him, vs 17?

Matthew 28:16-20

16 The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

18 Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

John 20:6-9

6 When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,

7 and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

8 Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

9 For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

B Jesus promised to be with us always. We believe that in a spiritual sense, but how else do we believe that in a literal, physical sense?

C Clearly they did not leap to belief. Here we see their doubt. Thomas, who initially doubted, spectacularly came to belief in His encounter. The disciples may have been yokels, but what can you say about their credulity and how did that change?

John 20:25-28

25 So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

28 Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

D What do you say about who Jesus is and His Resurrection?