

MONDAY 4.14.25 - Mark 15:42-47

<sup>42</sup>It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. <sup>44</sup>Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph, saw where he was laid.

Jesus was dead. Not nearly dead, or almost dead, but truly dead. Pilate needed to be sure of this, so he sent for a centurion to confirm it. This is important to note because the shedding of blood and ultimately death was what God required for the payment of our sins. The Bible tells us that we were dead in our sin (Eph.2:1), and that Christ needed to die for us to have forgiveness of sin (1 Cor.15:3). The God of the universe needed to die so that we could be forgiven of our sins and have newness of life. Dear readers, as you reflect on this it should cause you to be grateful for the forgiveness of your sins. Further, it should motivate you to live in a way that will be pleasing to the one who was willing to die in our place so that you could experience newness of life.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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TUESDAY 4.15.25 - 1 Corinthians15:3-4

<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance<sup>[a]</sup>: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Understand the weight of this claim. Paul writes inspired by the Holy Spirit. So, God is informing the Corinthians; of all the messages he could deliver, there is NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT than what Paul is about to tell you. First, “Christ died for our sins,” or “In our place,” is the heart of the

Gospel message. Christ’s sacrificial death for our sins makes the offer of salvation a reality.

“Raised on the third day,” signifies victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

As we celebrate Easter, realize all of Christianity hinges on the Resurrection.

Paul realizes this and continues, essentially saying, “If you don’t believe me, there are over 500 people who can testify to the truth of these claims.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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WEDNESDAY 4.16.25 - John 20:1-10

Historian Thomas Arnold of Oxford writes, “The evidence for our Lord’s life and death and resurrection may be and often has been shown to be satisfactory. It is good according to the common rules for distinguishing good evidence from bad. Thousands and tens of thousands of persons have gone through it piece by piece as carefully as every judge summing up on an important case. I have myself done it many times over, not to persuade others but to satisfy myself. I have been used for many years to study the history of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is better proved by fuller evidence than the great sign that God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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THURSDAY 4.17.25 - Mark 14:22-24

Jesus celebrated the Passover with His apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem the night in which He was betrayed, denied, arrested, and tried as a criminal. The Passover meal was divided

into three parts (preliminary course, main course, conclusion), revolving around four cups of wine used during the celebration. The tradition of the four cups is based on the four-fold promise of redemption expressed in Exodus 6:6-7. For Christians, the day on which the Last Supper was shared became known as Maundy Thursday, the name coming from the “new commandment” (Latin: *mandatum*) that Jesus gave His disciples, to love one another as He loves us. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Make a special effort today to demonstrate to other the love of Jesus Christ.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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FRIDAY 4.18.25 - Matthew 27:57-60

The name of this day, Good Friday, is an oxymoron because the Good is represented by someone’s Death. The grief and torture of Jesus, the pain and agony of his treatment, the hours of anguish suffered before being crucified and then hanging for those hours on that rough tree, cannot be described as Good. But Isaiah 53:4-6 explains the reason for the Goodness in this terrible death. It appears in two different ways. First, our transgressions and iniquities which would keep us out of heaven have been suffered and paid for by His own suffering and death. ‘He was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities.’ Moreover, while we live with troubles, He has paid for our griefs and sorrows and provided health and peace for us by his wounds. His death benefits us both while we live here and in our death. Now that is Good.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

Kids	CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	<b>SPRING QUARTER</b> – Sunday Mornings at 9:40  LOCATION: B8-10 – Lane Kemler- began March 2 <sup>nd</sup> . <b>EXPLORE THE BIBLE – 1,2 Peter &amp; Jude</b> - These books were written primarily to address suffering caused by persecution and to combat false teachings.  LOCATION: B11 – Randy Hutchison – begins April 27 <sup>th</sup> . <b>BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE – part 2</b> <b>Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work</b> – This Old Testament prophet did miracles that pointed to the God he served. God can work through you, too.  LOCATION: B1&2 – Joel Day – begins April 27 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Out of the Cave – How Elijah Embraced God’s Hope When Darkness Was All He Could See</b> This study examines the causes of depression and discouragement and offers a Biblical approach to wellness - mind, body, and soul.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Kids	MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	LOCATION: Worship Center

SPRING SMALL GROUPS

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY – Begins April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Rm. B8-10

**TOGETHER – Community That Marked the Acts 2 Church**  
Discover how being deeply connected to a community of believers can transform our lives, our cities, and the world. With Barry Wills

UPCOMING EASTER SERVICES

- Palm Sunday Baptism Service- April 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm, refreshments to follow
- Family Communion- April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Good Friday- April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm
- Easter Sunday- April 20<sup>th</sup> 8:20am, 9:40am, and 11:00am

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,  
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 19:31-42  
A Borrowed Grave

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*

~ 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

We speak much about the death and resurrection of Jesus, but we don’t talk a lot about His burial. Yet, Paul mentions it as an important part of his message to the Corinthians.

1. The P\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ Burial (vv 31-35)

The custom of the Romans was to leave dead bodies on the cross and to let the scavengers take care of it, but the Jews would not do that (cf. Deuteronomy 21:22-23).

2. The P\_\_\_\_\_ concerning Jesus’ Burial (vv 36-37)

John points to two Old Testament Scriptures that are fulfilled— Psalm 34:20 and Zechariah 12:10.

3. The P\_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus’ Burial (vv 38-40)

The corpse of Jesus was ready for burial according to first-century Jewish practice.

4. The P\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ Burial (vv 41-42)

Tombs were commonly hewn out of the solid rock and closed with heavy stones.

5. The P\_\_\_\_\_ at Jesus’ Burial (vv 38-40a)

John highlights two individuals at the burial of Jesus.

Are you a secret disciple? Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

E2 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 14 – April 18

INTRODUCTION:  
Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:  
Monday’s and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from, April 13<sup>th</sup> , “A Borrowed Grave”, with Pastor Doug Lyon . Wednesday’s through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 20<sup>th</sup> , “Resurrection of Jesus”, with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:  
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
John 15:12