

The Passion

Gethsemane

(Mt 26:36-46, Mk 14:32-42, Lu 22:39-46, Jn 18:1)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he came out, and went, as was his pattern, to the mount of Olives. Over the brook Cedron, there was a garden named Gethsemane, which Jesus and his disciples entered. He said to his disciples “Sit here, while I go and pray over there.” So he took Peter with James and John, the two sons of Zebedee. He began to be sorrowful and very heavy, and said to them “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. Stay here, and watch with me.”

He went forward a little, about a stone’s throw, and fell on his face and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him, saying “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. If you are willing, take this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared there, strengthening him. Being in agony, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. He arose from prayer and came to his disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow. Then he said to Peter, “Why are you sleeping? Could you not watch with me one hour? Arise, watch and pray, so you don’t enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is ready and willing, but the flesh is weak.”

He went away again and prayed a second time as before, saying “Oh my Father, if this cup may not pass from me, except I drink it, your will be done.” When he returned and found his disciples asleep again, because their eyes were heavy, they did not know what to answer him. So he left them and went away again, praying a third time, saying the same words. He returned to them and said “Sleep on now, and take your rest. It is enough. Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise. Let us be going. Behold, he that betrays me is at hand.”

Judas’ Betrayal

(Mt 26:47-56, Mk 14:43-50, Lu 22:47-53, Jn 18:2-12)

Immediately, while Jesus spoke, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived with a large band of men and officers from the chief priests, scribes and elders of the people, bearing lanterns and torches, swords and staves. Judas knew the place, for Jesus often resorted there with his disciples. As soon as he was come, Judas went straight to Jesus and said “Master! Master” and kissed him, because he had given the band a sign, saying “Whoever I kiss, the same is he. So take him and lead him away safely.” But Jesus said to him “Friend, why have you come? Do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Jesus, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth to them and said “Whom do you seek?” They answered “Jesus of Nazareth”. Jesus said to them, and to Judas who betrayed him, “I Am He”. As soon as had said “I am he”, they went backward and fell to the ground. Then he asked them again “Whom do you seek?”, and they said “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered “I told you that I am he. Therefore if you seek me, let these go their way” that his saying might be fulfilled – “Of them which you gave me, I have lost none.”

And they laid hands on him and took him. When they that were with him perceived what would follow, they asked him “Shall we strike with the sword?” And Simon Peter drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. Then Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into your sheath, for all who take the sword shall perish with the sword. The cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink it? Do you think that I cannot now pray to the Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that this must be? Allow it to be so.” Then Jesus touched Malchus’ ear and healed him.

Jesus said to the multitude and to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders, which had come to him, "Are you come out as against a thief with swords and staves to take me. I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you didn't lay hold of me. But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. This is your hour, and the power of darkness." Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus and bound him, and all the disciples forsook him and fled. Following Jesus was a young man having a linen cloth cast about his naked body. And the young men took hold of him, and he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

Jesus Before Annas and Caiaphas

(Mt 26:57-75; Mk 14:53-72; Lu 22:54-62; Jn 18:13-27)

And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Annas at the house of Caiaphas the high priest that year, where the scribes and the elders and all the chief priests were assembled. Annas was father in law to Caiaphas. Now it was Caiaphas who gave counsel to the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

But Peter followed him afar off to the high priest's palace, and went in. And so did another disciple who was known to the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace. And when the servants had kindled a coal fire in the midst of the hall below, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them, to see the end. But a certain maid beheld Peter as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him.

Then Peter stood outside the door, and that other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. Then the maid, who kept the door, said to Peter, "You were with Jesus of Nazareth. Aren't you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I don't know him, and don't know what you are saying." Then he went out onto the porch; and the rooster crowed. And the servants and officers stood there and they warmed themselves by the fire and Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

Annas sent Jesus bound to the high priest. And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people, the chief priests and the scribes led him into their council. The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world; ever I taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, where the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why do you ask me? Ask them which heard me what I have said unto them. Behold, they know what I said." And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Answer the high priest so?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why do you strike me?"

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death, but found none, though many false witnesses came. At the last came two false witnesses who said, "This fellow said, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" But neither did their witness agree together. And the high priest arose and stood in the middle, and said unto him, "Answer you nothing? What is it which these witness against you?" But Jesus held his peace and answered nothing.

Then the high priest asked him "Are you the Christ – the Son of the Blessed? Tell us." And he said unto them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I also ask you, you will not answer me, nor let me go". And the high priest answered and said unto him, "I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God!" And Jesus said "I am, as you have said. Nevertheless, I say to you,

Hereafter shall you see the Son of man
sitting on the right hand of the power of God,
and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now you all have heard his blasphemy! What think you?" They answered and said, "He is guilty of death."

Then they spit in his face, and punched him. And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and struck him. And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him "Prophecy to us, you Christ - who is it that struck you?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against him.

As Simon Peter stood and warmed himself, another maid saw him and said to them that stood by "This is one of them." They said therefore unto him, "Are you not also one of his disciples?" But he denied it with an oath, and said, "I am not." Then one among them confidently affirmed it saying "This fellow was also with him, for he is a Galilean."

After about an hour, one of the servants of the high priest, being kinsman to him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him? Surely you are one of them, for your speech reveals you as a Galilean." Peter then began to curse and swear and denied again, saying "I don't know what you're talking about. I don't know this man of whom you speak." And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. Then the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you shall deny me three times". So Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Jesus Before Pilate

(Mt 27:1-31 ; Mk 15:1-20; Lu 23:1-25; Jn 18:28-19:3, Ac 1:18-20; Ps 69:25; Ze 11:12-13; Je 32:8)

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pilate.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying "I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood." And they said "What is that to us? You see to it." So he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went to the potter's field and hanged himself; and falling headlong he ruptured in the midsection, and all his intestines gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem, insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue *Aceldama*, meaning, "The field of blood", as it is called to this day.

The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood." And they took council together and bought the potter's field with the silver to bury strangers in. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying –

And they took the thirty pieces of silver,
the price of him that was valued,
whom they of the children of Israel did value;
And gave them for the potter's field,
as the Lord appointed me.

For it is written in the book of Psalms –

Let his dwelling place be desolate,
and let no one live in it.

Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment. It was early, and for fear that they should be defiled, they did not go into the judgment hall with him, so that they might eat the Passover.

Then Pilate went out unto them, and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered and said unto him, "If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto you."

Then said Pilate unto them, "You take him, and judge him according to your law." The Jews therefore said unto him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death", that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spoke, signifying what death he should die. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King".

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Do you say this yourself, or did others tell it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you unto me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from hence." Pilate therefore said unto him, "Are you a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, Pilate went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find in him no fault at all." And they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place." When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who also was at Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him, and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then Herod questioned with him in many words; but Jesus answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. And Herod with his men of war set him at naught, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together; for before they were at enmity between themselves.

Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people. And when Jesus was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they witness against you?" And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

So Pilate said unto them, "You have brought this man to me, as one that perverts the people; and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof you accuse him. No, nor yet Herod; for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. I will therefore chastise him, and release him." Now at that feast Pilate customarily released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. And there was one named Barabbas, a robber, which lay bound with them that had made sedition in the city with him, and who had committed murder in the insurrection.

Pilate said, "You have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the Passover. Whom will you that I release unto you - Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ, the King of the Jews?" For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. When he was sitting down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just man; for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him." But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. And they cried out all at once, saying, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas."

Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spoke again to them and said "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ, the King of the Jews?". But they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" And he said unto them the third time, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found no cause of death in him. I will therefore chastise him, and let him go." And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see you to it." Then answered all the people, and said, "His blood be on us, and on our children." And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them.

Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, called Praetorium, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a purple robe. And when they had fashioned a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and struck him on the head.

Pilate therefore went forth again, and said to them, "Behold, I bring him forth to you, that you may know that I find no fault in him." Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "You take him, and crucify him; for I find no fault in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the judgment hall, and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. "Then said Pilate to him, "Won't you speak to me? Don't you know that I have power to crucify you, and have power to release you?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against me, except it were given to you from above; therefore he that delivered me to you has the greater sin."

And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him; but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, *Gabbatha*. And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour, when he said unto the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

Then Pilate delivered him to them to be crucified. And they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

(Mt 27:32-49, Mk 15:21-36, Lu 23:26-45a, Jn 19:17-27; Is 53:12; Ps 22:18)

As they came out, they found one Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who passed by, coming out of the country, and compelled him to bear the cross after Jesus. And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck.' Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us', and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?"

And they brought him to the place which is called Calvary, in the Hebrew *Golgotha*, which is interpreted as "The place of a skull". And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh, but when he had tasted it, he would not drink it. At the third hour, they crucified him there between two thieves, that the scripture might be fulfilled which says –

And he was numbered with the transgressors.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

And Pilate wrote a title of the accusation, and put it above him on the cross. And the writing was, "THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS". This title then read many of the Jews, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near to the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Then the

chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Write not, 'The King of the Jews' but that 'he said - I am King of the Jews'." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat. Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be", that the scripture might be fulfilled, which says –

They parted my garments among them,
and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

These things therefore the soldiers did. And sitting down they watched him there.

And the people stood beholding. And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, saying, "You who destroy the temple, and build it in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise also the chief priests, scribes and elders, mocking him said, "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he is Messiah, the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver him now, if he will have him, for he said 'I am the Son of God'."

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, "If you are Messiah, save yourself and us." But the other answering rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, seeing you are in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds. But this man has done nothing amiss" And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto you, today shall you be with me in paradise."

And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying,

"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"

which is, being interpreted, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, "Behold, he calls Elijah." And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, "Let him be. Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said unto his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Jesus Gives Up His Life

(Mt 27:50-52a, 54-60, Mk 15:37-47, Lu 23:45b-56, Jn 19:28-42; Ps 34:20; Ze 12:10)

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst." Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar; and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished." And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." And having said thus, he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two down the middle from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly. And the Centurion said "Truly this man was the Son of God, and a righteous man."

And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned. There were also women looking on afar off, among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome, and many other women, who when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him, and the mother of Zebedee's children, and all his acquaintance, and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) sought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they broke not his legs. But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and there came out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knows what he saith is true, that you might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled -

A bone of him shall not be broken.

And again another scripture saith -

They shall look on him whom they pierced.

And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counselor; and he was a good man, and a just one - the same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them. He was of Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who also himself waited for the kingdom of God, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews. When evening was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph went boldly unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then they took the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a sepulcher, his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock, wherein was never man yet laid. There they laid Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.

Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of Joses, were there sitting over against the sepulcher, and beheld where he was laid. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, 'He is risen from the dead', so the last error shall be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a watch. Go your way, make it as sure as you can." So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

The Resurrection

(Mt 27:52b-53, 28:1-15, Mk 16:1-13, Lu 24:1-, Jn 20:1-18)

In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to see the sepulcher, having bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like

lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, while it was yet dark, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, "Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulcher for us?" And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away, for it was very great. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. Then Mary Magdalene ran to get Simon Peter.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, they saw a young man, an angel, sitting on the right side and another, both clothed in a long white, shining garments. And the women were frightened, and bowed down their faces to the earth. Then the angel said to them, "Why seek you the living among the dead? Fear not. For I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Remember how he spoke to you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again'." And they remembered his words. "Go quickly and tell his disciples and Peter that he is risen from the dead, and goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see him, as he said to you; and lo, I have told you."

And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear, amazement and great joy; and ran to bring his disciples word, but said nothing to any man (on the way), for they were afraid.

Then Mary Magdalene came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him." Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulcher. So they ran both together; and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulcher. And he stooping down and looking in saw the linen clothes lying; yet he didn't go in. Then came Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher, and saw the linen clothes lie, and the napkin that was about his head not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulcher, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. And Simon wondered in himself at that which was come to pass.

But Mary stood outside at the sepulcher weeping. As she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher, and saw two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, "Woman, why do you weep?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him." And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have borne him from here, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned herself, and said to him, "Rabboni" which is to say, Master. Jesus said to her, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers, and say to them, 'I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God'." Thus 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.

And as the women (to whom the angels spoke) went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "All hail." And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus to them, "Be not afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there shall they see me."

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and showed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, saying, "Say 'his disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept'. And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you." So they took the money, and did as they were taught; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples as they mourned and wept, that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. And the other women returned from the sepulcher, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. But their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about sixty furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were held such that they should not know him. And he said unto them, "What manner of communications are these that you have one to another, as you walk, and are sad?" And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you only a stranger in Jerusalem, and have not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?" And Jesus said to them, "What things?"

And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 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. Yes, and certain women also of our company made us astonished - they were early at the sepulcher when they found not his body, then came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. So certain of them which were with us went to the sepulcher, and found it even so as the women had said, but him they saw not."

Then he said to them, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew near to the village, their destination, and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And he went in to tarry with them.

And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together and them that were with them, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon." And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. But they did not believe them either.

Jesus Appears To The Eleven Disciples

(Mt 28:16-20, Mk 16:14-18, Lu 24:36-49, Jn 20:19-31, Jn 21, Ac 1:2b-3)

Jesus showed himself alive to his chosen apostles after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, you might have life through his name.

As the disciples sat at meat and were speaking with Cleopas and the other traveler to Emmaus, being the same day at evening, Jesus himself stood in the middle of them, and said to them, "Peace be unto you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.

Handle me, and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have. And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you here any meat?" So they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you. As my Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you remit, they are remitted to them; and whose sins you retain, they are retained. Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe - in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe."

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Then Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the middle, and said, "Peace be unto you." Then he said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and behold my hands; and reach your hand here, and thrust it into my side. And be not faithless, but believing." And Thomas answered and said unto him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed - blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

And he said unto them, "These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." Then he opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you, but wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

After these things, the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias in the following way.

There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I go fishing." They said, "We will also go with you." So they went forth, and entered into a ship immediately. And that night they caught nothing.

But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore; but the disciples didn't know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any meat?" They answered, "No." And he said unto them, "Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and you shall find." Therefore they cast, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship, for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits, dragging the net with fish.

As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring of the fish which you have now caught." Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fish - 153; and for all that many, yet the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come and dine." And none of the disciples dare ask him, "Who are you?", knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus

then came and took bread and gave it to them, and fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus had shown himself to his disciples, after he was risen from the dead.

So when they had dined, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, "Do you love me?", and he said to him, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto you, when you were young, you girded yourself, and walked to where you would, but when you are old, you shalt stretch forth your hands, and another shall gird you, and carry you where you would not." This he spoke, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he said to him, "Follow me."

Then Peter, turning about, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who had also leaned on his breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is it that betrays you?" Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what shall this man do?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to you? You follow me." Then went this saying abroad among the brothers, that that disciple should not die. Yet Jesus said not to him, 'He shall not die' but, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple which testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Amen.

The Ascension

(Mk 16:19-20, Lu 24:50-53, Ac 1:4-11)

Jesus led them out (from Jerusalem) as far as to Bethany. And he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "You have heard from me. For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Therefore, when they were come together, they asked of him, saying, "Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" And he said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven." So Jesus was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.