

THE HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

November 2025

No. 479

THREE DAYS LATER

Jesus is dead. He has been buried in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea with a stone in front of the entrance and guards keeping watch. Those who had conspired against Him seem to have been successful. But that is not the end of the story, and they are worried about what will happen next:

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.

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141 County Road 474

Woodland, AL 36280

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Command therefore that the sepulchre 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 unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch. (Mat. 27:62-66)

Three days later, their fears were realized. Sometime before dawn on the first day of the week, there was an earthquake and an angel rolled the stone away that was in front of the tomb.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. 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. (Mat. 28:1-4)

Several people including Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John saw the empty tomb. Mary was distraught.

But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth 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 weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. (John 20:11-13)

She was afraid, not knowing what had happened, and then she saw something that would change everything.

And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest

thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. (John 20:14-17)

So, Mary went to tell the disciples what Jesus had told her to say. At some unknown point on this day, the chief priests and elders decided to bribe the tomb guards to tell the people that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body.

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed 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 ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come 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. (Mat. 28:11-15)

They had to start the spread of misinformation so that they did not look bad and because they did not want Jesus to gain followers. While this was successful with some, it was not successful with all, and Christianity continued to spread.

After appearing to Mary Magdalene, Jesus appeared in another form to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about three-score 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 holden that

they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? 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? 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: 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. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 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. 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. Then he said unto 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 nigh unto the village, whither they went: 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 brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. (Luke 24:13-31)

Not too long after this, still on the first day, Jesus appeared to even more of His disciples who were gathered together in Je-

rusalem.

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19-20)

While He was with them, He gave the disciples the Holy Ghost, ensuring that His work would continue after He ascended.

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. (John 20:22-23)

As we all know, the story does not end on the first day. Jesus went on to show Thomas that faith should be unseen, He gave a commission to the disciples, and He continued to teach lessons to those who would listen before His ascension.

Then 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. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Mat. 28:16-20)

In a previous article, we discussed what you would do when faced with impending death. After reading the accounts after Jesus died and then rose, think about what you would do if you were given a second chance to live. Jesus did not seek revenge on those who had come after Him, He went to his clos-

est companions and made sure that they knew what they needed to do and who they needed to reach. He ensured that His legacy would live on. Will yours?

A. D.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. The name of the Lord is like what place of safety?
2. Which city did David pray for the peace of?
3. Who came to see Jesus by night?
4. What did Jesus say when the Pharisees asked why he ate with publicans and sinners?
5. Which bird does Jesus say we have more value than?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. Which two tribes of Israel were not named after sons of Jacob? EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH (Jos. 14:4)
2. What does the law say to do when you see a bird in its nest? LET THE MOTHER BIRD GO FREE (Deu. 22:6-7)
3. Who said, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel," when he saw Jesus? SIMEON (Luke 2:25,32)
4. Which supernatural being or beings does the Bible say the Sadducees did not believe in? ANGELS (Acts 23:8)
5. Which evangelist baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? PHILIP (Acts 8:38)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221 * Email: theharvesteronline@gmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org

GREEDY FOR THE LORD

On the night of His betrayal, after supper had ended but before the instituting of the Lord's Supper, Jesus quietly rose up. He took a towel, poured some water into a basin and then proceeded to wash the disciples' feet. This was a common act of hospitality in those days. When a guest arrived at the front door, usually he was offered a towel and some water with which to wash his feet and hands. When the host himself did the washing of the feet, this was an even greater compliment to the guest for it showed humility and affection from the master of the house.

When Jesus approached Simon Peter to wash his feet, Peter was not sure if this was proper. He asked, "Lord, do you intend to also wash my feet?" Wasn't Jesus the Lord and Master and Savior? Should not Peter be washing Jesus' feet instead? So Peter resisted. But, *"Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me"* (John 13:8). With these words, Peter finally gave in. In fact, he exclaimed, *"Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head"* (John 13:9). Although he missed the point in Jesus' act, his desire and attitude is commendable.

Peter's display of zeal is really one to be admired. He loved his Lord tremendously. When he heard that having his feet washed meant having a part with the Lord, he wanted as much as he could get. In a way, he was greedy -- greedy for the Lord!! "NOT MY FEET ONLY, BUT ALSO MY HANDS AND MY HEAD." It is this same attitude that every disciple of Christ should likewise have.

In regards to church attendance, each member should display the zeal and desire befitting a Christian. A member of the Lord's church will want to be at every service and to share in every meeting that involves Christ. Just like Peter, our thoughts should be this: "Lord, since you told me not to forsake the assembling, then I will attend not only on Sunday mornings but also on Sunday evenings, on Wednesday eve-

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER
Nov. 14 - 16	8pm Fri. & Sat; 10:30am & 2pm Sun. (All times EST)	Mt. Carmel Road Gay, GA	Ben McManus, David Burnham, & Gregg Moore

nings, and gospel meetings!” Is this our true attitude? I’m afraid for most of us it is not. Nowadays it seems that there are more members who miss the church services than there are who show up. Is this what the Lord wants the world to see in His church today?

Our desire should be to go to the Lord’s house at every opportunity possible, not just on Sunday mornings.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:2-3)

RAY MCMANUS

Edited from *The Harvester* April 1989

FROM THE SCRIPTURES: REVERENCE FOR GOD

And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. (Exo. 3:5)

Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. (Psa. 33:8)

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. (Psa. 89:7)