

Day 7

THE TOMB

Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40

Jesus' body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus: "He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth." (John 19: 39-40). Nicodemus, like Joseph of Arimathea, was a member of the Sanhedrin, the court that had condemned Jesus Christ to death. For a time, both men had lived as secret followers of Jesus, afraid to make a public profession of faith because of their prominent positions in the Jewish community. Similarly, both were deeply affected by Christ's death. They boldly came out of hiding, risking their reputations and their lives because they had come to realize that Jesus was, indeed, the long-awaited Messiah. Together they cared for Jesus' body and prepared it for burial.

While his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus paid the penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation: "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18-19, NLT)

Questions

1. How do you feel?
2. Do you have anticipation for tomorrow?
3. What does the Holy Spirit say to you in the in-between?

Changing Your Mind

As we walk with Jesus, we observe a Christ that is in the in-between. We can't help but to think of how the disciples would have felt on the Saturday. "Was Jesus the Messiah?" Would they have doubted His identity? Would they have remembered His words (Mark 9:31)? Did they anticipate the Resurrection? We find ourselves at the back end of prophetic declarations. We have a mountain top view of the completed work of Christ. We don't have the same day the disciples would have had. Our Saturday is filled with celebration in anticipation.

Moving Forward

Doubt is a good thing. It means that we question things. And that we are in search of greater meaning. For if there was no doubt, there would be no need for faith. And it is in the moments in-between the promise and the delivery where we experience doubt most. May we find peace in the fact that God has us. He has our past, present and future. We are eternally secure in His embrace.

We can welcome the "now" and the "not-yet". For we have a divine eternal perspective in Christ. Meditate on the Saturday and what God reveals to you through it. Rest in His presence - Sunday is coming.

