

March 31-April 1, 2018

“Redemption’s Song:

The Gospels in Perfect Harmony”

It’s a Song of Victory: The Resurrection

“He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead just as He said would happen. Come, see where His body was lying.”

Matthew 28:6

Matt 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

A. The setting...

1. It was Friday...only 6 hours after it all began!

“It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified Him.”

Mark 15:25

“Then at three o’clock Jesus called out with a loud voice...Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathes His last.”

Mark 15:34a, 37

2. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked for the body of Jesus and took His body from the cross.

“Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus’ body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night.” *John 19:38-39a*

3. They wrapped His body in 75 pounds of myrrh and aloe with a white linen cloth.

“He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloe. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus’ body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth.”

John 19:39b-40

4. They placed His body in Joseph’s unused garden tomb.

“The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before.” *John 19:41*

5. They rolled the stone in front of the tomb to seal the gravesite.

“and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance.” *Mark 15:46b*

B. Sunday morning came...

1. Mary, Mary Magdalene, Salome, and other women came to the tomb. But, no one thought about who would roll the stone away.

“But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.” *Luke 24:1*

2. There was an earthquake, the second in only a few days. The stone rolled away. The guards fainted. The two angels appeared.

“Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it.”

Matthew 28:2

3. The angels spoke to the women to go tell the disciples and Peter.

“Now go and tell His disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you before He died.” *Mark 16:7*

4. Peter and John ran to the tomb. John outran Peter, but Peter stepped in first.

“Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there,”

John 20:3-6

5. Then it dawned on them! He was supposed to rise from the dead!

“Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.” *John 20:8*

6. The guards told the priests what happened (instead of Pilate) and they bribed the guards with a story, promising to back them to the governor. The story spread quickly.

“As the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the leading priests what had happened. A meeting with the elders was called, and they decided to give the soldiers a large bribe. They told the soldiers, ‘You must say, ‘Jesus’ disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole His body.’ If the governor hears about it, we’ll stand up for you so you won’t get in trouble.’ So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today.” *Matthew 28:11-15*

7. Jesus appeared to His disciples and over 500 eyewitnesses! He was alive!!

“After that, He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.”

1 Corinthians 15:6

C. We know these truths...

**Lee Stroebel*

1. Execution: Jesus was dead!
2. Empty tomb: No bones were ever found!
3. Eyewitnesses: Over 515, including skeptics!
4. Early accounts: Including in the creed of the early church (as early as 24-36 months after Jesus’ death), and historical data close to the happenings.
5. Emergence of the church: Explosive growth!

D. What will you choose to do today?

1. Joseph and Nicodemus were willing to give their fortunes and their lives. They came out of the darkness to openly admit their need to follow Jesus.
2. Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Salome and the other women were willing to face whatever persecution to demonstrate their love and devotion.
3. Peter and the disciples ultimately all gave their lives to follow Jesus. They came out of hiding and stood for Jesus.
4. All through history...men and women have been willing to stand unashamed and proclaim their faith in, and following of Jesus.
5. What will you do with the greatest story ever told?
 - Come out of the darkness and openly admit your willingness to follow Jesus!
 - Be willing to face whatever persecution or rejection you may face and follow Jesus.
 - Be determined to not let fear control your voice for Jesus!
 - Stand unashamed for the One who stood unashamed for you!

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Next Week: April 8 –

“It’s a Song of Anticipation: The Ascension”

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:50-53

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”
Mark 16:15