

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE (2)
The Empty Tomb
Luke 23:50-24:12

INTRODUCTION

- A. The deed was done, the “king of the Jews” dead.
 - 1. Jewish leaders have done away with their troubles.
 - 2. No more to worry about his “negativity”.
- B. The hopes and dreams of ALL Jews have been destroyed.
 - 1. The hope of freedom from Roman rule.
 - 2. Dreams of power and authority.
- C. The plan of redemption complete, well, almost.
 - 1. Psalm 22
 - 2. Isaiah 53:9-12

I. JESUS BURIED.

- A. The Time: early sundown, beginning of Sabbath.
- B. Joseph of Arimathea.
 - 1. A prominent member of the Council that condemned Christ, Mark 15:43.
 - 2. Noted as a good and righteous man, Luke 23:50.
 - 3. Did not go along with the sentence, Lk. 23:51.
 - 4. Stood in the shadows no longer.
 - 5. John mentions the help of Nicodemus, a secret believer, Jn. 19:38, 39.
 - a. Nicodemus brought the spices for burial, about 75 pounds.
 - 6. Permission granted from Pilate.
 - a. He was surprised that Jesus had died so quickly.
 - b. By Roman law, those condemned to death lost their right for burial.
- C. The Tomb.
 - 1. The body of Jesus was wrapped for burial [according to custom, Jn. 19:40].
 - a. The body was first washed.
 - b. Then wrapped with strips of cloth.
 - c. Alternate layers of spices [myrrh, as at birth] and cloth.
 - 2. Laid in his own tomb, cut out of rock [one entrance].
 - a. Never been used.
 - b. Prophesied, Isa. 53:9.
 - 3. This would make Joseph and Nicodemus ceremonially unclean, Numbers 19:11.
 - a. They would not be able to participate in the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
 - 4. An extremely large stone was rolled in front of the tomb.
 - 5. Group of women took note of the burial place.
 - a. They were sitting opposite the grave.
 - b. Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, possibly others.
- D. The Tomb Sealed.
 - 1. The Pharisees and chief priests, Matthew 27:62-66.
 - 2. Request the tomb be made secure.
 - 3. Soldiers stationed at the tomb.
 - a. Probably more than two, maybe 4, Matthew 28:4, 11; Jn. 19:23.

- b. Involving 16 (?), because it spanned a period of several days.

II. THE EMPTY TOMB.

- A. The Tomb Found Empty.
 - 1. Early Sunday morning, about 5 AM.
 - 2. Women to anoint body with spices, a “proper burial”.
 - a. Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, Salome, Joanna, Mk. 16:1-8.
 - b. “Who will roll the stone away?”
 - 3. Stone already rolled away.
 - 4. Angels appeared with message,
 - a. “*Why seek the living with the dead.*”
 - b. “*He is not here, but risen...*”, vss. 6-7.
- B. The Empty Tomb Reported.
 - 1. Returned to the eleven and reported the empty tomb.
 - 2. Women were met with disbelief [nonsense] at the story, Lk. 24:11.
 - 3. Peter and John (Jn. 20:8) went to check it all out.
 - a. John reached first and stood on the outside.
 - b. Peter went into the empty tomb.
 - c. John believed.
 - d. Peter went to his home marveling.

III. LESSONS FROM THE EMPTY TOMB.

- A. Standing in the Shadows.
 - 1. Joseph and Nicodemus for a time had walked in the shadows, believing.
 - 2. The time had come to stand up for Jesus.
 - *3. *We need to stand up for Jesus – to be truly committed.***
- B. Leave Room for the Power of God.
 - 1. The women were perplexed at the empty tomb.
 - 2. Words of the angels – “*Why do you seek...?*”
 - a. “*Remember what He told you?*”
 - b. Why were the women even at the tomb?
 - 3. Peter “*marveled*” at the empty tomb.
 - *4. *Do we marvel today at the power of God?***
 - 5. Mark 9:24, “*Forgive my unbelief!*”