

Jesus Rose from the grave

In our last lesson we learned about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. As He was dying, “the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.” What a wonderful thought to know that the punishment for all our sins was totally paid by Jesus. Today we will learn another exciting truth: Jesus rose from the grave and He is alive today.

Jesus died at around three o'clock in the afternoon. His body was taken carefully and lovingly from the cross by a man named Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph had requested permission of the governor to bury Jesus in his own grave. Joseph and another man named Nicodemus took the body to a cave in Joseph's property and wrapped the body with linen cloth putting spices on as they wrapped.

Jesus is alive

Jesus body lay in the tomb for three days and three nights, and then things began to happen. Several ladies were coming to the tomb to put more spices on the body of Jesus. They were discussing how they were going to roll back the stone when they felt an earthquake shaking the earth. When they finally looked, they saw that the rock was rolled away and one of them, Mary Magdalene ran to tell the disciples. The other ladies went into the tomb and saw angels who told them that Jesus was risen. They then went their way rejoicing. Soon Peter and John came running to the tomb and saw that it was empty with just the grave clothes lying there, and they went away believing and rejoicing. Mary Magdalene was the last one to come to the tomb and she saw not only angels, but also Jesus and was so thrilled that she went to tell anyone and everyone that Jesus was risen. Jesus was indeed risen from the dead.

Soon the word had gotten around to the disciples that Jesus was risen. Ten of them decided to come together to a room where they could lock the doors and the windows while they waited for whatever might happen. They found out that evening: Jesus was suddenly standing in front of them, and to help convince them that it was He, He ate some broiled fish. They were all convinced, but one was not there. Thomas was off by himself not wanting to be with anyone. When the disciples told him that Jesus was alive and that He had appeared unto them, he would not believe. His words to them were “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”. Finally the disciples got him to come to the same room eight days later. Jesus appeared again and told Thomas to put his fingers into His nail scars and his hand into His side. Instead Thomas said “my Lord and my God”. Now all the disciples believed.

Jesus spent forty days here on earth after He arose from the dead. During this time Jesus met with His followers to assure them that He was alive and to prepare them for when He would be gone to Heaven for a very long time. Several of these appearances were quite interesting. He once met two followers as they were traveling: He simply began to talk with them about Himself and found that they had doubts about His resurrection. He then began to explain the Scriptures to them, and as they began to understand who He really was, He disappeared. At another appearance, above five hundred of Jesus' followers saw Him and believed. One of His final appearances was to His disciples as they were fishing and catching nothing. He told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and they were able to catch a great catch of fish. When they got to shore Jesus had fish and bread cooking on coals in the fire, and Jesus fellow shipped with them, but He spoke especially to Peter to help him recover from his recent failure and to encourage him to be a Godly leader among the disciples.

At the end of the forty days Jesus led His disciples out to the Mount of Olives. Just before He left for heaven, He told His disciples that they were to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature”. But His final recorded words on earth were “but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Jesus then blessed them and began to rise in the air. They watched as He disappeared into Heaven, but they watched a little too long and an angel came and spoke to them. He reminded them to go back to Jerusalem and wait as Jesus had told them to do.

Where is Jesus now and what is His position at this time? Jesus was welcomed into Heaven and given the honored seat at the right hand of the Father. According to the book of Acts we find that Jesus is now “Lord of all”. What does this mean? He is over all angels and all of creation, and most of all *He is Lord of all of us.*

Christ became head of a new family when he died for us. That is the family of God: those who are born-again into the family of God. The other family on this earth was founded by Adam. All of us were born into the family of Adam, and we will be part of that family until we die. But if we want to go to Heaven to be with Jesus when we die, we must be born-again into the family of God by receiving Christ as our Savior. If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, you could do so right now. Bow your head and tell Jesus that you are a sinner who wants Jesus to come into your heart to wash away your sin with the blood that He shed on the cross. If you will do that right now, He will save you, and then you can tell your parents what you did. You can also let Mr. Bill know what you have done. We would be thrilled to hear of your decision to be saved.

Here are your questions. Answer each question and e-mail [just the answers](mailto:justtheanswers): as soon as we receive your answers back, we will send out your next course.

1. At what time did Jesus finally die?
 - A. Three PM.
 - B. Four PM
2. What was the name of the man who buried Jesus? J _____
3. What lady went to tell the disciples that she thought Jesus was missing? M _____ M _____
4. Which disciple was not there in the room when Jesus appeared to them? T _____
5. What was the largest number of Jesus followers who at any one time saw Jesus risen? F _____ h _____
6. For how many days did Jesus stay on the earth after He arose from the dead?
 - A. Fifty
 - B. Forty

Send your answers to bmason6@bellsouth.net.

