

Luke 23.26-24.12

Ground Zero

ground zero — noun

1. a point on the surface of land or water at or directly above or below the centre of a nuclear explosion
2. a scene of great devastation

Colins English Dictionary

FEARFUL Words in HIROSHIMA, NAGASAKI, LOWER MANHATTAN
 Ground Zero – Gospel of LUKE > of ALL HUMAN HISTORY > CROSS!
 10's of 1000's DIED on Crosses – but THIS CROSS, THIS VICTIM - UNIQUE!
 Both Greatest DEVASTATION and Greatest DELIVERANCE for Human Race

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
 1 Corinthians 15.3,4

MOST Familiar THEMES of Christianity – CROSS and RESURRECTION
 Seen thru LENSE of ENTIRE Gospel of LUKE – CRADLE / CROSS / CROWN
 SHADOW of CROSS LINGERED over the CRADLE

8 days old – Held in Arms of OLD MAN who told His Young Mother

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."
 Luke 2.34,35

1. Facts about Jesus

VOLUMES written – Countless SERMONS and SONGS – About CROSS of Jesus
 Luke's TANTALIZINGLY BRIEF – Word CROSS used ONCE – Another Carries
 LUKE'S readers did not NEED MANY WORDS about CROSSES
 Vivid IMAGES – Regular Occurrence OCCUPIED Roman Colony of JUDEA
 Seen MEN and WOMEN – Writhing, Gasping, Dying in AGONIZING Pain
 Anyone with STOMACH to Watch “The Passion of the Christ” not Travel Far into
 Collective Memory to SEE the BLOOD and TORN Flesh of JESUS

Place IN THE STORY:

BETRAYER had given FATAL KISS
 PRIEST staged MOCK, MIDNIGHT TRIAL
 GOVERNOR rendered UNJUST VERDICT
 SOLDIERS savagely BEATEN the PRISONER

a. Real People

23.26 Simon of Cyrene – NORTH African – Wrong Place / Wrong Time
 Innocent PILGRIM CONSCRIPTED by Romans to Carry Crossbeam of Jesus
 Jesus EXHAUSTED by SAVAGE Beating – Sleepless Night – Terrible ORDEAL
 Soldiers wanted Him LIVE Long enough they could have Pleasure of Killing Him

23.27 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

NOT Everyone in JERUSALEM shouted ‘Crucify Him’ > MOST were AGHAST!

23.32 Two other men, both criminals...

CROSSES are for REJECTS – GUILTY – THROW-AWAYS from Normal Society

23.35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him.

Friday 2 am – 3rd Ring Road – BIG Crowd > TRUCK Overturned > Stared
 LOOKY-LOOS 24/7 – MORE BLOOD MORE of Them – Lots of Blood on Cross
 Not just CURIOUS > The CONDEMNING > Add to His EMOTIONAL Pain

23.36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him.

23.50,51 a man named Joseph, a member of the Council...He came from the Judean town of Arimathea

23.55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee

24.10 Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them

ONE Thing NEVER Seen in Luke > Jesus FOCUSED on Himself
 ALWAYS Thinking About – Serving – Helping OTHER PEOPLE
 Even at MOMENT of EXCRUCIATING Pain & Suffering Thinks of OTHERS

23.27-29 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

Ref. to LUKE 21 > End of AGE > End of JERUSALEM > Terrible DAYS Ahead
 DO NOT WEEP of Me > Jesus does NOT NEED or WANT OUR PITY for Him
 He's DOING FINE: Thank you very much! RISEN, RESTORED, Running World
 Bible DECLARES the GLORY of the CROSS NOT the GORY of the CROSS

Jesus thinks not of himself but of them. He wants their repentance, not their sympathy.
 Leon Morris

b. Real Place

23.33 When they came to the place called the Skull

ARAMAIC > GOLGOTHA // LATIN > CALVARIA // English > CALVARY

23.53 Then he (Joseph) took it (Jesus body) down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.

HOLY Tomb > NEVER BEEN USED // Holy DONKEY Never Been Ridden

VERY LIKELY no CRUCIFIED Corpse ever lain in EXPENSIVE Stone Tomb

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.
 Isaiah 53.9

DIED with ROGUES / BURIED by ROYALTY

23.55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.

Just to MAKE SURE NO Chance of MISTAKEN Identity > RIGHT TOMB Empty

24.1,2 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb...

KNEW the PLACE very well > NOT like they LEFT IT > GREAT SHOCK! Open!

Too Much COFFEE Wednesday Night – Woke at 3 a.m. Thursday – Work Now?
Rolled in Bed for Three More Hours > WOMEN got UP VERY Early in Morning

MOST VALIANT WARRIORS for Jesus WOMEN – At CROSS at TOMB
LOYAL – OBEDIENT to LAW of GOD and their LORD Jesus even in DEATH

Many People in BUSY PLACE – Golden 5 STAR Bazaar outskirts of Jerusalem
UNIQUE Emphasis of LUKE > Most EDUCATED of FOUR Gospel Writers
Writes for SKEPTICAL – RELIGION-FILLED Roman World
This is NOT just ANOTHER god-Myth – NOT Dreamworld FANTASY

I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you...so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.
Luke 1.3,4

c. Really Dead, Really Alive

Normal Practice > Suffering on CROSS lasted for DAYS > GASPING, AGONY
After DEATH > Romans LEFT Victim on CROSS > VULTURES ate FLESH

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down... But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

John 19.31,33

LEGS Broken: No Longer THRUST UPWARD– GASP for AIR - SUFFOCATE MURDER of an INNOCENT?? OK! – SPOILING our HOLY DAY? No Way!

The Jews, as is usually the case with hypocrites, direct their whole attention to small matters, and yet pass by the greatest crimes without any hesitation.

John Calvin

SWOON Theory > Jesus BADLY WOUNDED and in Cool of Grave HEALED Spread by Muslims TODAY > Jesus Died OLD MAN > Buried Kashmire

Now what does Jesus' victory consist of; in his death on the cross or in his escape from the cross?... We believe that he was taken down from the cross alive (in a state of swoon of course) and he entered the heart of the earth alive, then he can rightly be said to have overcome his enemies and frustrated all their evil designs.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

“Da Vinci Code” >> RESUSCITATED: Jesus married Mary Magdalene

ROMANS knew how to KILL VICTIMS > 100% SUCCESS Record w/ CROSS

CLOSURE and FINALITY - 23.46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

INCREDIBLE PEACE and CONFIDENCE > Body Writhe in Pain / Soul at REST SIMPLE Prayer of FAITH – Jews recited as LAID DOWN TO SLEEP Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. Psalm 31.5 Dying word of 1st MARTYR – Stephen – Polycarp – Bernard – John Hus

More INTIMATE for Jesus > God of TRUTH His ABBA FATHER

RECOMMITMENT: Restore FELLOWSHIP of ETERNAL LOVE – Father, Spirit

POINT of BURIAL – MENTIONED in All FOUR GOSPELS – Part of Gospel

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, *that he was buried* 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies; Who can explore his strange design?

Charles Wesley

Another GRISLY, SADISTIC Fact from Roman History of CRUCIFIXION
After VULTURES Finished Feasting, Gnawed Carcass thrown RUBBISH Dump

23.52,53 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock...

Had Joseph...not been there, it is likely the body of Jesus would have been carried off to some obscure and accursed ditch. James Stalker

NO INDICATION Followers has ANY EXPECTATION of Resurrection
NO Record that ANYONE actually SAW Resurrection EVENT – Maybe Guards?

24.4 the women were...utterly at a loss (New English Bible)

Bible – EVIDENCE of EMPTY Tomb – Common Theme of 4 Gospels
EMPTY Tomb – RELUCTANCE of Disciples – 1st APPEARANCES to Women
Slight DISCREPANCIES of Minor Details in 4 Gospels >
Not 1 Common Source > Copied by 4 Guys > ONE Clear Truth: Jesus ALIVE

24.5,6 "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

BODILY Resurrection – Jesus who REALLY Died became REALLY Alive
NOT Alive in OUR HEARTS – MEMORIES – WISHES – DESIRES
NOT saying He had an IMMORTAL SOUL
NOT RESUSCITATION – Like Lazarus – Became Alive to DIE AGAIN Later

**Physical Resurrection – Raising of Jesus Christ to Immortal Splendor
of a New Body that will NEVER Die Again**

...his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1.3,4

2. Faith in Jesus

a. Incarnation: *God became man*

BIRTH Narrative of JESUS in Luke > NO ORDINARY Child

Angel to Mary: "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1.32,33

Elizabeth to Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Luke 1.42,43

ELDERLY Respected Women do NOT Say Such words to TEENAGE Girls
Not Unless that VIRGIN Girl has GOD Growing in her WOMB

Angels to Shepherds: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord....Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2.10-14

GLORY of God SHINING in the SKIES and in that Bethlehem STABLE
GOD of GLORY become HELPLESS BABE

Film on Flight Monday night > Clash of Titans – gods Zeus, Hades, whole Team
GOOD Sermon Illustration from NOT So Good FILM
Appear like Men – Sex with Earth Women – but IMMORTAL – Cannot DIE
Jesus was DEAD – Cold, Lifeless, Empty Shell of BODY
Lowest COMMON DENOMINATOR of Human Experience – FRAIL CORPSE

SHINING thru GORE of Execution > IRREPRESSIBLE INNOCENCE of Jesus
HARDENED, MURDEROUS Romans – NO LOVE for Jews – No Ordinary Jew

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death....What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty." Luke 23.13-22

Roman DEATH Specialists > Spoke of Him in PAST TENSE

23.47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

REBELLIOUS CREATURES Killed CREATOR > CREATION is ASHAMED
SUN stops SHINING because STUPID People will NOT STOP SINNING

23.44,45 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining.

HIGH NOON – FULL MOON (Not Possible was ECLIPSE) – 3 DARK HOURS

The wonder of this darkness is related in your own annals and is preserved in your archives to this day. Tertullian, to Roman readers, 200 AD ca.

"In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your religious feasts into mourning and all your singing into weeping. I will make all of you wear sackcloth and shave your heads. I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day." Amos 8.9,10

WORDS of AMOS came TRUE that DAY / God DIED in the DARKNESS

b. Substitutionary Atonement – *God became man for man to know God*

SIMON of Cyrene – carried CROSS for Jesus – became BELIEVER

Mark notes > Father of Alexander and Rufus – Members of church in ROME then

Earlier in LUKE > Jesus said DISCIPLES will CARRY their CROSS

SIMON picture of DISCIPLESHIP > TRUE but NOT MAIN Point

Did NOT YET believe in JESUS > Simon DESERVED Cross / HELL
 Jesus took BACK Crossbeam Simon RIGHTLY Carried / DIED for HIM

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the
 righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.21

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our
 Lord. Romans 6.23

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our
 justification. Romans 4.25

HEART of Biblical Theology > PAUL, AUGUSTINE, REFORMATION
 SOURCE of this IDEA > JESUS Himself – RIGHT Here as HE DIED

23.34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

For ever let us bless God that our great Redeemer's death is a fact beyond all
 dispute. The centurion who stood by the cross, the friends who took out the nails,
 and laid the body in the grave, the women who stood by and beheld, the priests who
 sealed up the grave, the soldiers who guarded the sepulcher, all, all are witnesses
 that Jesus actually was dead... The great sacrifice was really offered. The life of the
 Lamb was actually taken away. The penalty due to sin, has actually been discharged
 by our Divine Substitute. Sinners believing in Jesus may hope and not be afraid. In
 themselves they are guilty. But Christ hath died for the ungodly; and their debt is
 now completely paid." J.C. Ryle

3. Following Jesus

a. Conflict

GOSPEL Message FOR WORLD > EVOKES Very MIXED Reactions

23.35-36 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said,
 "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."
 The soldiers also came up and mocked him.

Some WOLVES Baying for the BLOOD of their VICTIM > Some just WATCHED

23.39-41 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

TWO Differing OPINIONS even AMONG those CRUCIFIED
BOTH Criminals made SAME DEMAND to be SAVED – ONLY ONE WAS
One UNDERSTOOD if Jesus SAVED HIMSELF they NEVER COULD be Saved

23.26 As they led him away > INTENTIONALLY AMBIGUOUS
Carried SINS of WORLD > Whole WORLD is GUILTY of His DEATH

BELIEVERS in Deep REMORSE/ BETRAYERS DELIGHTED, REJOICING

23.38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Aroused ANGER of RELIGIOUS Leaders / but AFFIRMED as True by Righteous

Want to FOLLOW Jesus – Any Country – City – Campus TODAY – Same Conflict
PROOF of Real Power and Presence of Jesus > SO VIOLENTLY HATED Today
If this is MERE MYTH – Ancient FAIRY TALE – Easily IGNORED with a Laugh
REAL Jesus – Really Died and Lives – Christians today Really Killed
Churches Really Closed and even BURNED – Sometimes with Followers Inside
Real BATTLE because there is SOMEONE REAL who calls us to BELIEVE

b. Confession

23.47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

GAMBLING Soldier: MAYBE he WENT HOME as WINNER of Jesus CLOAK
REMORSE of a MURDERER? TRUE Faith? > CONFESSION of TRUTH

LOUSY PAY // People RECYCLING Cardboard and Plastic on BEIJING Streets
Would you GIVE UP Everything – Start Religious Movement – THEY Said So

Found by WOMEN- 1st Preachers of Resurrection Gospel > Women!!

1st C Roman & Jewish World > Testimony of Woman LEGALLY INVALID

It is strange that a more competent witness could not be found. John Calvin

SARCASTIC JIBE > those who Claim Easter Message is Human INVENTION

IF SO > INVENTOR was PRETTY STUPID > Base Tale upon WOMAN!

...if the writers of the four Gospels were making their stories up in collusion with each other they would certainly not have allowed such problems to stand... The reason why these difficulties are allowed to stand is that, whatever the explanation of them may be - whether or not the disciples themselves knew the explanation - *this is simply the way things happened*. Consequently, they record them accurately as witnesses. The alleged discrepancies have the ring of truth about them.

James Boice

Christian FAITH not BASED on Worthy Preachers > MESSAGE worth Preaching
CONFESSION is Jesus – HE is TRUTH, WAY, LIFE – WORD for the WORLD

c. Courage – *Everything to Lose*

23.50-53 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.

COULD NOT MAKE this STORY UP > TOO STRANGE for FANTASY!
Jesus # 1 FOLLOWER – Ran like SCARED CHICKEN, Weeping like BABY

Then into SCENE of Grisly HORROR > 2 of Most Prominent Men in Nation

Joseph of Arimathea is one of the few who is mentioned in all four Gospels.
MT 'rich man' / MK 'honorable counselor' / JOHN 'secret disciple'

BIG Shot, tells Pilate 'what's what' > GET'S THINGS DONE, Others FEAR

TOUCHING the DEAD BODY of JESUS > DEFILED Joseph
 COULD NOT Participate in the PASSOVER FEAST
 NO PROBLEM > Christ, their PASSOVER LAMB > Had BEEN SLAIN

AMAZING! – ‘DISCIPLES of Jesus’ > Dare to Assoc w/ INSURRECTIONIST

DEATH > Ends SECRET DISCIPLESHIP of Joseph > Join His Suffering

MANY QUESTIONS – Why they NOT STOP Unjust Proceedings? > CROSS?

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. Luke 23:50-51

Was he THERE? Was he SILENT? Did he GO DOWN FIGHTING?

Bigger Question – WHERE DO THEY GO?? > Rest of NT Never Mentioned

Joseph...waiting for the kingdom of God. Luke 23:50-51

MISSED Many Opport. Hang Out w/ King & His People, Before & After Cross

Nevertheless > One Critical Moment in History of Redemption

Grim Day > Dark and Fearful Moment > THERE, BIG WAY, BIG THING!

The World Christian Encyclopedia, estimates there are about 112 million secret disciples or “churchless Christians” worldwide, about 5 percent of all adherents, and projects that number will double by 2025. Brad Beaman

Imagine MANY in this City > POSITION of PROMINENCE

Fear LOSS of STATUS, JOB, INCOME, RESPECT

DISAPPOINTED w/ OLD Religions and Traditions > Attracted to CHRIST
 PRAY we Could help Them – By our LIFE and EXAMPLE move CLOSER

d. Comfort – Everything to Gain

COMFORT – We know meaning of word COMFORT in our CHURCH Too Well

OFFERING – SAVE for ALL Stuff I Want – GIVE whatever LEFT, if Left to GOD

SERVICE – Fill Calendar ALL we want to DO, TRIPS, PLANS – Sign up to Serve
 MINISTRY – Think of MY GIFTS, PREFERENCES – Not Smelly Homeless, or
 Runny Nosed Kids – Ministry FULFILLS My NEEDS

23.42,43 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. "
 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

OTHER Gospels > BOTH Criminals are MOCKING Jesus / 1 has Changed Heart
 BOTH Criminals DEMAND Jesus Save THEM > 1 Sees him as LORD not Servant
 1 is HEARD and GIVEN WONDERFUL Invite > God's PLEASURE PARK

e. Convinced

NO INDICATION Followers has ANY EXPECTATION of Resurrection
 They SHOULD have

24.6-8 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still
 with you in Galilee:

7. "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified
 and on the third day be raised again."

8. Then they remembered his words.

No deed of Jesus, and certainly not this last and greatest, has been without its
 accompanying word... The first step in the way of salvation is to begin to see that
 life does make sense, and it is the teaching of Jesus that enables men to see this.

Michael Wilcock

Jesus could have JUMPED out from behind STONE > Here I am!
 STOOD in middle of TEMPLE Courts or Jerusalem CITY SQUARE
 NOT Nature of CHRISTIAN Faith > FOLLOW by FAITH in His WORD

Abraham: "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be
 convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

Why I am STANDING here PREACHING NOW > WORD is LIFE GIVING
 For others GOOD CHANCE to Catch up on LOST Sleep from Busy Saturday Nite

December 7, 1941 – Japanese nearly Destroyed US Navy in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
 Much Smaller – Daring Bombing raid on Tokyo led by Doolittle
 Jacob DeShazer CREW Member on ONE Plane SHOT DOWN over Japan
 CAPTURED – Held Prisoner in JAPAN for Three Years – TORTURED / Solitary
 NOT Believer in God – Got BIBLE – Read it SIX X's COVER to COVER
 FAITH in ONE who DIED, BURIED, and ROSE from DEAD
 Released wrote TRACT 'I was a Prisoner of Japan' MILLION Copies Printed!
 Many in JAPAN learned about Jesus for FIRST TIME
 One tract left in RAILROAD STATION found by MITSUO FUCHIDA
 Shouted ORDER 'Tora, Tora, Tora' began BOMBING on Pearl Harbor
 NOW Defeated, Discouraged, Doubting > CURIOUS what De Shazer Wrote
 FUCHIDA Read – Got OWN Bible – Read it STOPPED Short at Verse Luke 23

23.34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

FUCHIDA Believed Jesus' PRAYER was for HIM TOO
 Believed PRONOUN 'them' INCLUDED EVEN him: Good News Includes YOU!

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:45

THE RISEN JESUS ONLY APPEARED TO BELIEVERS - KNEW SCRIPTURES

Missionary to India - Preached gospel to a Muslim

MUSLIM "We Muslims have something better than you have, in Medina we have the grave of Muhammed - and his coffin is there. You Christians go to the tomb in Jerusalem and find nothing."

MISSIONARY "that's just the difference, Christ is alive forever, holds all power in heaven and on earth."

26. As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

27. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

28. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.

29. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

30. Then "they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" "

31. For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

32. Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

33. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left.

34. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

35. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

36. The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar

37. and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

38. There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40. But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?"

41. We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42. Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. "

43. Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

44. It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour,

45. for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

46. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

47. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

48. When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

49. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

50. Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man,

51. who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.

52. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.

53. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.

54. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

55. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.

56. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Luke 24

1. On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

2. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

3. but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

5. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

6. He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

7. "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

8. Then they remembered his words.

9. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

10. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

11. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

12. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.