



Mark 16:1-6 (NLT)

Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene and Salome and Mary the mother of James went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³ On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. ⁵ When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, ⁶ but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!"

Friday Afternoon – 3:00 PM – GOLGOTHA

What we know:

- Jewish Sabbath began at sundown (6:00 pm).
- Burials were forbidden by Jewish law on the Sabbath.
- Jesus died at 3:00 pm and the two thieves about 4:00 pm leaving only two hours to remove the bodies from the crosses before sundown.
- Joseph of Arimathea petitioned Pilate for permission to claim Jesus' body and bury him in his own family tomb.

Who is Joseph of Arimathea?

- **Mark** (15:43) – *honored member of the high council.*
- **Matthew** (27:57) – *a rich man...who had become a follower of Jesus.*
- **Luke** (23:50-51) – *a good and righteous man...a member of the Jewish high council, but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders.*
- **John** (19:38) – *a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders).*

Saturday – THE SECOND DAY

What we know:

- Pilate orders Roman soldiers to be stationed at the tomb.
- Romans were worried that the disciples might steal the body.
- Disciples were hiding behind locked doors in an upper room.

Sunday Morning – SUNRISE – THE THIRD DAY

What we know:

- Mary Magdalene and other women went to the tomb.
- The stone was rolled away.
- The tomb was empty.
- An angel appears telling them, *He is not here! He has risen!*

THE UNBELIEVABLE STORY

- **Mark** (16:1-8) - the women learned Jesus had been raised; but they were so afraid they didn't tell anyone.
- **Matthew** (28:16-17) – after the disciples saw Jesus alive, *some of them doubted.*
- **Luke** (24:8-11) – Mary and the other women rushed back to tell the disciples what they had seen. *But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. (v. 11)*
- **John** (20:24-29) – Thomas: *I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my finger into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.*

AN UNIMAGINABLE LOVE

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NLT)

A LIBERATING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I need you. I accept you as my Savior. Forgive my sins. Wash me clean, and make me new. I choose to follow you as my Lord. Help me to live according to your will each day. I wish to be your disciple. I offer my heart and life to you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and use me as you will. I pray this in your name and for your sake, Jesus. Amen.