



Mark 16:1–6 (NLT)

Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, 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! Look, this is where they laid his body."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—3:00 P.M.—GOLGOTHA

What we know:

- Jewish Sabbath begins at sundown (6 p.m.).
- Burials were forbidden by Jewish law on the Sabbath.
- Jesus died at 3 p.m. and the two thieves around 4 p.m., leaving 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.
- The religious leaders were worried that the disciples might attempt to steal Jesus' body.
- The 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 the women, *“He is not here. He has risen.”*

THE UNBELIEVABLE STORY

Mark 16:1–8—The women learned that 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 fingers 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 that 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 PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I want to have a real faith in you. Thank you for dying for my sins and showing me the way to live. Today I want to become a true believer in you. I want to follow your example. I want to accept your gift of grace. I need your forgiveness and mercy. You made me for a purpose, and I want to invest my life in you. I want to trust your wisdom and strength, and hold on to your promises when times are tough. Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.