

The Story Adult Study Guide

For the Week of April 19, 2020

Chapter 27: “The Resurrection”



Key Events: Jesus’ burial and resurrection, Jesus appears to his followers, Jesus reinstates Peter

Key Characters: Jesus, Peter (see page 492 for descriptions)

Bible Reference for this Chapter: Matthew 27-28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 19-21

Note on page 381: The soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals to hasten their death. The victims couldn’t put weight on their legs and would suffocate more quickly. The Sabbath began at sundown on Friday evening.

1. What emotional and spiritual needs did Jesus meet in his appearances to Mary Magdalene (pages 383-4), the two men on the road to Emmaus (pages 384-6), the Eleven (pages 385-6), Thomas (page 386), and Peter (pages 386-8)?
2. In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul described the meaning and importance of Christ’s resurrection.

4-8 ⁴ . . . he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- What do all of these appearances dispel and support?

13-18 ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

- What if Christ had not risen from the dead?

20-23 ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

- What truth and hope does Christ’s resurrection hold?

42-44, 51-52 ⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. . . ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

- What will happen when Christ returns?

54-58 ⁵⁴ The saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

- For children of God, what confidence do we have about life and death?

Prayer Suggestions

- Thank God for granting me the victory over sin, death and the devil through his Son, my crucified and risen Savior.

Study Guide Helps

1. Jesus met the emotional and spiritual needs of his followers then, and **consider/discuss how he meets our needs today**. Mary Magdalene: heart-broken with loss, Jesus strengthened her with his presence and comforted her with his tenderness and love. Emmaus disciples: confused and uncertain, Jesus clarified God’s plan of salvation and the true purpose of the Messiah. The Eleven: frightened and in hiding, Jesus calmed their fears, gave proof of his resurrected and now glorified body, opened their minds, and promised them the Holy Spirit. Thomas: skeptical and hesitant, Jesus rebuilt his trust and strengthened his faith in the Good News truth. Peter: ashamed and contrite, Jesus demonstrated forgiving acceptance, led Peter to profess his faith, and gave him a mission (*feed my sheep and follow me*).

2. 4-8: There are other appearances recorded in the Gospels in addition to the six stated here. The appearance to Paul (*one abnormally born*) occurred several years after the resurrection, when Jesus appeared to Saul/Paul on his way to Damascus (Acts 9:1-6). The fact that there were hundreds of witnesses who saw Jesus on many occasions during the 40 days between his resurrection and ascension dispels the notion that his resurrection was fabricated. The appearances validate the truth of his resurrection.

13-18: If Jesus didn’t rise: 1) we’d have a dead Lord and Savior; 2) we’d have a worthless message; 3) we’d have a meaningless faith; 4) we’d be liars; 5) we’d be stuck in our sins and would still carry guilt and condemnation; 6) we wouldn’t/couldn’t be raised from physical death to eternal salvation. Christians and all people would be in a pitiful situation.

20-23: Jesus, *the firstfruits*, is the first part of the harvest of the resurrection. Believers, *those who belong to him*, are guaranteed a resurrection to eternal life since Jesus was raised. Christians carry the hope of life following earthly death (the body in a grave and the soul in heaven – see Ecclesiastes 12:7), and an eternity with God.

42-44, 51-52: In addition to these passages, Paul writes in Philippians 3:20-21: ²⁰ *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,* ²¹ *who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.* When Christ returns, the body and soul will be reunited, and what was a *perishable* and *natural* body will be transformed to become an *imperishable* and *glorious* body, like Christ’s body after his resurrection. *We will not all sleep* means that believers who are living on earth when Christ returns will not experience death and a grave. All believers, whether those alive or in the grave on the Last Day, will receive changed, imperishable bodies fit to live eternally with God. These incredible occurrences go beyond our human understanding.

54-58: Christ’s victory is our victory – we live each day under the victory that Christ won on the cross and in the empty grave. Our efforts in the Lord’s winning cause are not empty and meaningless activities; God brings about the salvation of souls through them. Death has no real power over us. It grabs our bodies for a short time, but will never take our souls. Earthly death is the beginning of a glorious existence perfectly united with God in paradise.