

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Explain what may have taken place in the hearts of Jesus' friends at the time of His burial.
2. Who announced the resurrection of Jesus?
3. To whom was the announcement made? Does this have significance?
4. How was the news of Jesus resurrection received?

SUMMARY:

It must have been a bleak and dismal time when Jesus died on the cross and a heartrending experience to lay Him in the tomb. All hope was destroyed, but love for Jesus prompted a few to return to the sepulchre to do the last things necessary for His complete burial.

Then the terrifying experience of seeing the empty tomb! However, this was only short lived because it was followed by the "almost unbelievable" announcement that He had risen. Acceptance of the announcement was based more on love for Jesus and simple-minded obedience because the basis of faith had not been established. It was only later that they remembered what Jesus had told them.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

April 11, 2004

Second Quarter

HE LIVES—FOREVERMORE !

LESSON TEXT: *Luke 23:50-56; 24:1-12*

LESSON SETTING: In the garden of Joseph of Arimathaea in Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

I. JESUS BURIED. Luke 23:50-56

- A. Prepared for Burial (vs. 53) Matthew 27:59; Mark 15:46; John 19:39-40
- B. A Special Burial Site (vs. 53) Matthew 27:60; Mark 15:46; John 19:41-42
- C. Burial Witnessed by Others (vs. 55) Matthew 27:61; Mark 15:47

II. RESURRECTION ANNOUNCED. Luke 24:1-7

- A. Announcement Made To: (vs. 1-5) Matthew 28:1-5; Mark 16:1-6; John 20:11-16
- B. Announcement Made By: (vs. 4-7) Matthew 28:5-6; Mark 16:5-6

III. THE NEWS DECLARED. Luke 24:8-12

- A. The News. (vs. 6-8) Matthew 28:9; Mark 16:9; John 20:17
- B. The Witnesses (vs. 10) Matthew 28:10; Mark 16:10; John 20:18
- C. The Acceptance (vs. 11) Matthew 28:11; Mark 16:11

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *WHY SEEK YE THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?*
Luke 24:5

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Kings 16:28-34; 17:1-24

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 3:1-11; 6:26-34;
Matthew 11:1-19; 17:1-13

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Israel

TOPIC: ELIJAH, GOD'S PROPHET

INTRODUCTION:

To understand better what manner of man this man Elijah was, we need only look at the time the Lord called him into service and the conviction he exhibited in his first assignment. Ahab, King of Israel, had taken for his wife a heathen princess, the daughter of the King of Tyre and Sidon. She had accomplished such an influence over him that he did her every bidding. The people of the land were also under her evil influence and worshipped the gods of Baal. It was during this time that God acknowledged that 7,000 only had not bowed the knee to Baal. How could a man be bold in such an evil circumstance? Yet, Elijah was told to be bold in such a situation. He called on the Lord of Israel and declared that there should no rain fall in answer to his prayer. It was only after he had obeyed that the LORD made provision for him in sending him to the brook Cherith. One cannot help but wonder what Elijah must have expected to happen to him after he made his dread prophesy. He either had such a trust in the Lord that he knew he would be taken care of, or he was willing to suffer the consequences of his act. Then he watched the brook dry up and was directed to a home only to find there that the food was about to run out. Place yourself in his shoes as he encountered these obstacles. Yet they did serve to make him stronger. The same God who directed Elijah to speak out for Him is yet directing man to speak out in this day. He still seeks to make the man who is willing to serve Him stronger. He still seeks to speak to the world through the weakness of man. We can still decide to serve Him or choose to go our own ways. Consider the blessings that were Elijah's as he served the Lord.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God provides for His servants and prepares them for future ministries.

GOLDEN TEXT: *BUT MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS.*

Philippians 4:19

Do these words sound strange coming from a man who suffered all of the persecution that the Apostles suffered? Shipwrecked, beaten, imprisoned, threatened, misunderstood and hated by those who considered themselves God's leaders. This seems hardly words to be coming from his lips, when we know that at times he had to leave off what we might consider a full-time ministry to make tents full-time and preach part-time. Yet the words are true and were rightfully spoken by the Apostle Paul. God will supply all of the needs of those who serve Him and submit to His Lordship. "Needs" must then have a much deeper meaning than we would first attach to it. "Needs" must be more than our daily bread and clothes to cover our bodies and shelter for our family. Yes, when all eternity is taken into consideration a whole new set of values comes into view. As the songwriter says, "Things of this earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." Spiritual things become more important and our spiritual well being of the most importance. We can certainly glory in the knowledge that our needs will be supplied and all things will work to our ultimate good.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 12 - 18

- M. *Ahab Becomes King. 1 Kings 16:28-34
- T. *Elijah Declares Judgment. 1 Kings 17:1-7
- W. *Elijah Sustained Physically. 1 Kings 17:8-16
- T. Elijah Performs a Miracle. 1 Kings 17:17-24
- F. Elijah's God Provides for Us. Matthew 6:26-34
- S. Elijah's Spirit in Another. Matthew 11:1-19
- S. Elijah Rewarded. Matthew 17:1-13