

★ The First Day of the Week ★

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 11

The Resurrection of Christ

Three days after Jesus died, He came back to life again. He could do that because He is God. He is the only One Who could do it. But Jesus' enemies wanted to make sure no one believed it. So they started telling lies.

Devious Priests

Pilate knew Jesus was not guilty. But he let Jesus' enemies kill Him anyway. The day after Jesus died on the cross, the chief priests and Pharisees went to talk to Pilate. They wanted to ask him a favor.

Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

—Matthew 27:62-64

The priests were afraid someone would steal Jesus' body out of the grave. Pilate told them to make sure no one could open the tomb. A large stone had been rolled in front of it. The priests sealed it all around so it could not be opened. Then some Roman soldiers stood by to guard the tomb. Nobody could steal Jesus' body now. The priests made sure no one could fake Jesus' resurrection.

Dishonest Soldiers

As the soldiers stood by the tomb, the ground started shaking. There was a great earthquake. The soldiers fell backwards. But what they saw next scared the soldiers nearly to death. They saw the angel of the Lord. The angel rolled that huge stone away from the tomb. Some of the soldiers ran back to the city. They ran to tell the chief priests what had happened.

Matthew 28:13 tells us that the chief priests gave the soldiers a lot of money and told them, "Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept." What did the soldiers do? "So they took the money, and did as they were taught" (Matthew 28:15).

The chief priests and Pharisees, the leaders of God's people, paid the soldiers money to tell a lie. They told them to lie and say the disciples stole Jesus' body. This lie was spread all over Jerusalem. These rulers didn't want people to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. They didn't want people to believe that Jesus is God. Some of the Jews believed this lie told by the soldiers.

Disbelieving Scholars

Some people today don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead. This is because they do not believe God's Word. Of course, it is the devil that keeps people from believing God. If we don't

believe God's Word, we cannot be saved. The devil doesn't want anyone to be saved. He will try to make us believe a lie.

The Death-Defeating Savior

The story of Jesus rising from the dead is the most wonderful story ever told. Before He died, Jesus told the disciples that He would rise from the dead. (Matthew 16:21)

Afterwards, Jesus proved that He rose from the dead. He showed Himself to many people after His resurrection. He talked to Mary and two other ladies (Mark 16:1) and to all of the disciples. (Luke 24:33-36) He walked with two men as they left Jerusalem. (Luke 24:14-31) He also showed Himself to over 500 people at one time. (I Corinthians 15:6)

Conclusion

I Corinthians 15:1 says, “I declare unto you the gospel.” The word *gospel* means “good news.” There are three parts to the Gospel: “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:3-4). There would be no good news if Jesus had not risen from the dead. (I Corinthians 15:17)

Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that we will live again after we die. If we have been saved, we will live with Jesus in Heaven forever. (I Peter 1:3)

Teacher's Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.