

FINAL STUDY NOTES - *LUKE Chapter 23:39-56; Chapter 24:1-12* 6/23-24/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221
NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada) **THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile; +16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>
HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO Zoom? <https://www.technipages.com/troubleshooting-zoom-login-errors>

OPENING PRAYER

LUKE – Chapter 23:39-56: The Thief on the Cross; (vs. 39-43); Jesus Dies on the Cross – (vs. 44-49); Jesus Buried in Joseph’s Tomb – (vs. 50-56); Chapter 24:1-12: The Resurrection!

Review: (Luk 23:32) There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.

- Matthew tells us that as they were being nailed to the crosses, they railed on Jesus with the crowd. (Mat 27:44) Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.
- (Luk 23:34) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. (Luk 23:38) And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The Thief On The Cross

- The conversion of the thief upon the cross, is a wonderful and an illustrious instance of Christ's triumphing over principalities and powers even when He seemed to be triumphed over by them.
- Christ was crucified between two criminals, and in them were represented the different effects which the cross of Christ would have upon the children of men, to whom it would be *brought near* in

the preaching of the gospel. (2Co 2:15-16) *For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. [16] To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?*

- **They were criminals, all guilty before God.** Now the cross of Christ is to some an *aroma of death leading to death* and to the other the *aroma of life leading to life*! To them that perish it is foolishness, but to them that are saved it is the wisdom of God and the power of God!

Luk 23:39 *Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."*

- **Here was one of these criminals that was hardened to the very end.** He blasphemed Him, saying *If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us!* Though he was now in pain and agony, and in the valley of the shadow of death, yet this did not humble his proud spirit, nor teach him to give good language, not even to his fellow-sufferer. He challenges Christ to *save both himself and them*. There are some that have the gall, the impudence to rail at Christ, and yet the confidence to expect to be saved by Him, concluding that, if He does not save them, He is not to be looked upon as the Savior!

Luk 23:40 *But the other, answering (knowing his sin), rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?*

- **Here was the other criminal who softened, showing respect for God at the end!** Who, being on the brink of Satan's grasp, was saved and became an example of divine mercy, leaving Satan to roar in frustration.
- **Do not delay your repentance until your deathbed, hoping for mercy!** While true repentance is never too late, late repentance is rarely genuine and rarely occurs! No one can be certain they will have time to repent at death, and unlike the repentant thief, most will not have such extraordinary circumstances.
- **He never had any offer of Christ, nor day of grace until now.** This thief was designed to be made a singular instance of the power of Christ's grace now at a most unlikely time, on the cross, surrounded by unbelief.
- **Christ, having conquered Satan in the destruction of Judas and preserving Peter**, erects this further trophy of His victory over him in the conversion of this criminal, as a specimen of what He would do. What an example of God's grace!
- **How strongly does my witness and my Christian walk demonstrate the example of God's grace in my life? How visible is it to the unbelieving world around me?**

Luk 23:41 *And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man (the criminal knew Jesus!) has done nothing wrong."*

- **He owns that he deserves what was done to him. That was repentance. That was confession!** *We indeed justly.* It is probable that they both suffered for one and the same crime, and therefore he spoke with the more assurance, *We received the due reward of our deeds.* This magnifies divine grace, as acting in a distinguishing way. These two have been comrades in sin and suffering, and yet one is *saved* and the other *perishes*; two that had gone together all along, and yet now *one taken and the other left*. He does not say, *You indeed justly*, but *We*. True repentance acknowledges the justice of God in all the punishments of sin. God has *done right*, but *we* have done wickedly.
- **Does my repentance truly acknowledge the justice of God, that He has done right, but I have done wickedly?**
- **He believes Christ to have suffered *wrongfully*.** Though he was condemned in two courts, and run upon as if he had been the worst of criminals, yet this repentant thief is convinced, by his conduct in his sufferings, that this Man has done nothing wrong!
- **The chief priests would have Him crucified *between the criminals*, as *one of them*;** but this thief has more sense, and owns He is *not one of them*. Whether he had before heard of Christ, we don't know, but the Spirit of grace enlightened him with this knowledge, enabling him to say, *This man has done nothing wrong!*

Luk 23:42 *Then he said (called out) to Jesus (being brutalized, beaten, defeated, mocked and mangled), "Lord, (Kurios), remember me when You come into Your kingdom (recognizing Jesus to be Lord, to be King, having a kingdom!)"*

- **The amazing thing to me is the fact** that this man's next request is *"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."* (1Co 12:3b) No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. Somehow the Holy Spirit gave him faith to believe that even though Jesus was dying, yet He was coming into the kingdom. This is faith that was greater than that of the disciples! At this point, their hope for the kingdom was all over.
- **But here is a dying thief being crucified next to a man who has the sign above His head,** This is the King of the Jews, and he believed it. Somehow he believed that though He was dying, He was coming into His kingdom. Lord, when You come into Your kingdom, will You remember me?
- **How easy salvation is. How simple God has made it.** If there was ever a lesson that taught us that salvation is not of works, it is right here! He could not do any works at this point. Not much he could do for God now. And yet, the comforting words of Jesus in response to his simple request, Remember me!

Luk 23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

- **God is a forgiving God.** Sometimes you hear about this conversion of this thief, and they will dismiss it as a deathbed confession. What did he have to lose? He is down to the 11th hour and 59th minute in terms of his life. So, gets saved in the last minute.
- **The great lesson of the passage is that anybody can get saved all the way to the final minute of their life.** It is such an **important** lesson for people to know! Many times, at near the end of person's life, their event can be used to speak to the dying individual, that no matter what is in our past, God will forgive us of that sin if we repent and confess! Think of many people impacted by this account.
- **Even in this most tragic moment, surrounded by unbelief, this dying thief demonstrates his faith here as one of the most astonishing portraits of faith in the entire Bible!** Could it have been due in part, to Jesus' prayer, *"Father, forgive them, they do not know what they do!"* It is all His grace!
 - ✓ **Notice: Verse 40** - He rebuked the other thief and confesses his sin. *"Do you not even fear God!"*
 - ✓ **Verse 41** - He declares Jesus to be without fault; to be sinless! *"This Man...done nothing wrong!"*
 - ✓ **Verse 42** - He confesses Jesus to be the King of the Kingdom. *"When You come into Your kingdom!"* He believes that Jesus' Kingdom is going to be established! He asked to be a part of that Kingdom, having absolute faith in Jesus' power and willingness to save him. He does it all there at Calvary, God giving him the grace to do that!
 - ✓ **We look and put our faith in Jesus Christ, looking back** on the entirety of the story of His death, burial, and resurrection. This man puts his faith in Jesus Christ and in His death! In His burial and resurrection, before this ever happened in human history! It is a beautiful and astonishing thing!
 - ✓ **Notice the request that he made of Jesus.** *Remember Me when you come into your Kingdom.* This is not just the request that he makes here. It is actually a profession of faith, a statement of faith! He believed that Jesus would rise from the dead! He believed that Jesus was the King! He believed that Jesus would rule over the entire world! And he said when all this happens to Jesus, *"Will You remember me?"*
 - ✓ **How visible is my faith? Can His witness through me be seen by others?**

The Death of Jesus

Luk 23:44 Now it was about the sixth hour (noon time), **and there was** darkness (sun stopped shining) **over all the earth** (global) **until the ninth hour.**

- **The ninth hour would be three o'clock in the afternoon.** This was a supernatural phenomenon. It could not have been an eclipse because the Passover always takes place at full moon. It was a supernatural, global darkness phenomenon! (*Amo 8:9 And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight.*)
- **This darkness tells us all that the Passion is a great mystery,** into which we cannot pry. God veiled the cross in darkness, and in darkness much of its deeper meaning lies; not because God would not reveal it, but because we have not capacity enough to discern it all! It was too much to gaze so rudely on our perfect, immaculate Savior!

Luk 23:45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

- *(Mat 27:51a) Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* This shows us that now, by the cross, man has free access to the throne of God! Additionally, that now no one should ever think that God dwells in manmade temples!
- **All of these prophecies which led Peter to declare on the Day of Pentecost (Act 2:23) Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; The death of Jesus Christ was something that God had planned and even had written out the plan in advance.** As Peter had said concerning the scriptures, *(Act 1:16a) "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled! What God has said is certain, it is sure and shall surely come to pass.* The fact that God wrote of it in advance, only indicates and affirms the fact that this was God's plan. So much of prophecy was fulfilled right at this point in the death of Jesus.

Luk 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.' " Having said this, He breathed His last.

- **He cried with a loud voice commending His spirit** unto the Father's hands. Lord, it is over, it is finished!
- **He breathed His last. It is a description of death**, the separation of a man's spirit from his body or his consciousness from his body. Today it is still used as a definition for death, the separation of a man's consciousness from his body. When the brain is no longer functioning, he is considered dead medically. Jesus had said, *(Joh 10:18) No one takes it (My life) from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."* So, we find Him giving His life for you and for me!

Luk 23:47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"

- **The centurion, one of the toughest men** in the Roman military, who was in charge of the crucifixion, who undoubtedly witnessed many crucifixions, makes this startling statement, another confirmation of Jesus' innocence!

Luk 23:48 And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned.

- **The crowd returned home in shame that they had come to watch** and be entertained by the death of this Jesus. I am sure they were hoping everyone would forget the part that they played in that scene.

Luk 23:49 But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

- **What a dark, dismal, crushing day for them!** *(Luk 24:21) But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.*

Jesus Is Buried

Luk 23:50-51 Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. [51] He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God.

- **He was a man from Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin.** He may have been there at the trial, but he *did not consent to their decision.*

Luk 23:52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

- **Consider how Joseph being rich and a ruler, puts into jeopardy** his physical safety, position, and wealth by publicly showing an allegiance to Jesus in asking for Jesus' body. But his name goes down in history as one of the great names within the Bible because of what he did there!
- **There are these strategic moments in life in which we have the freedom or the choice to do the right thing** in that moment, and shortly afterward, the opportunity is lost! Joseph is deciding, I do not care what happens to my position in this nation. I do not care what happens to me. Here I am going to identify with Jesus in asking Pilate for His body.
- **Putting myself in that situation, would I have loved my Jesus enough to do what Joseph did?**

Luk 23:53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.

- **We are told by John that it was a new, unused tomb**, which was in a garden, near the spot where Jesus was crucified. The “Gordon’s Garden Tomb” in Jerusalem fits this description very well. We could well say that Jesus only used it for the weekend!

Luk 23:54-55 That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath (plural) drew near. [55] And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid.

- **It was evening now, three o’clock in the afternoon when Jesus dismissed His spirit.** At sundown, the sabbath begins. The crucifixion had to be quickly completed. After Jesus died, Joseph ran to Pilate, wanted the body of Jesus. Pilate, not knowing whether He was dead yet, inquired from the soldiers if Jesus had already died. Upon receiving the affirmation, Pilate he granted Joseph the right. Joseph got the linen, wrapped Jesus and quickly put Him in the tomb that had been hewn out of a stone. They rolled the door over the mouth of the tomb.

Luk 23:56 Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

- **Chapter twenty-three leaves us in a rather dark spot, but we come out of it** and are lifted in the glorious light of the resurrection as we move on to chapter twenty-four!

The Resurrection!

Luk 24:1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

- **The “they” are the women who had come from the Galilee region**, mentioned in verse 55 of the previous chapter. Jesus traveled with a large company. We think of the twelve apostles but actually there were hundreds of disciples. When Jesus would travel there would be a great crowd with Him.
- **When you are travelling, you have got to have food, you have got to have other things** besides just walking along. They did not have Motel Six. They did not have buses and all, but they were walking and if you rip your robe on a bush or something, you have to have a lady around who can sew the thing up. You need the ladies to prepare the food and all. There were many ladies that traveled with Him, as He made His way to Jerusalem. They were devout followers of Jesus.
- **Among them was Mary Magdalene**, from Magdala, one of the little villages along the shores of the northwestern part of Galilee. There were many others who came, and they were very interested. When Jesus was being crucified, they were standing there watching. They watched as Joseph took Him down. They followed Joseph to the tomb where he placed Jesus, and they were watching the whole event. Then they went home, and began to prepare the spices and the perfumes to take back and to put in the folds of the wrapping around the dead body of Jesus to pay their final respects.
- **But Sabbath day came and so they had to wait for the Sabbath.** But early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women were heading back toward the tomb.

Luk 24:2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

- **Mark tells us while they were on their way to the tomb**, they were worried. They were saying, Who is going to roll away the stone? Because he tells us it was a great stone.
- **In Jerusalem today, you can go to a couple of these stone tombs.** They are hewn out of the stone. There is one right near the King David Hotel. It is called the Tomb of Herod, which it is not, but it is right there almost beside the King David Hotel. There is this burial cave and there is this stone that they roll over the opening of the cave. The stone is rolled back but it is huge. I can understand the women saying, Who is going to roll away the stone for us? When they got there, to their amazement, the stone was already rolled away!
- **It is interesting the things that we often worry about.** Here the women were worried about who is going to roll away the stone. All of their worry about that was worthless because when they got there, the stone was already rolled away. Many times, we find ourselves worried about something but by the time we get there, we find the Lord has already been there before us and taken care of it. All of our worry was just wasted time because the Lord had already taken care of it, which shows you not to waste much time worrying. It does not really help the situation.
- **How is my tendency to worry? Do I frequently work myself all up, thinking that it is necessary for me to help Him out? That without my effort the whole program will fail?**

Luk 24:3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

- They found the tomb was empty! Though the wrappings that were around His body were lying there, yet the Lord was not there

Luk 24:4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men (Joh 20:12 says angels) stood by them in shining (dazzling, glistening) garments.

Luk 24:5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living (singular) among the dead (plural)?"

Luk 24:6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,

- **Can you imagine a more shocking, amazing, and startling thing than this? Their minds would still be filled with the awful and tragic crucifixion scene, and now, He is not here, He is risen? Hallelujah!**

Luk 24:7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' "

- Don't you remember what He told you there in Galilee? (**Luk 9:22**) saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. The angel is saying, Don't you remember what He told you that He would be raised on the third day? He is not here! Why do you seek the living among the dead? **He is risen!**

Luk 24:8 And they remembered His words.

- Yes, He did say that! I remember!

Luk 24:9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven (Judas is no longer) and to all the rest.

- To put the order of events, Mary Magdalene was coming with these ladies to the tomb. Upon arrival they saw the stone rolled away! Mary assumed someone had taken the body of Jesus. She left the other ladies to run and tell Peter and John! These other ladies went into the tomb. While the other ladies were still there, the two angels appeared, telling them that Jesus was risen just like He said! They went off to tell the disciples what they had seen.
- In the meantime, Peter and John came running back to the tomb, finding it just like Mary Magdalene had told them that the clothes of Jesus were lying there, but the body of Jesus was not there. Peter wondered what in the world is going on, but John realized, He is risen!
- As Peter and John left, Mary, who could not keep up with them, arrived at the tomb, coming back to it, she asks where the body of Jesus has been taken so that she can give it proper attention in burial. As she looks into the tomb, she sees an angel who asked her, "Why are you weeping?" And she said, "Because they have taken away my Lord. I do not know where He is." Turning away, she saw Jesus standing there, but did not recognize Him. She thought He was a gardener.
- He asked her, Woman, why are you crying? She said, Because they have taken away my Lord but if you will tell me where you have taken Him, I will carry Him away. Jesus said unto her, Mary! She realized who it was, and she came over and **grabbed hold of Him**, hugging Him like a person that was drowning. I will never let you away from me again! Jesus said, Mary, do not cling to Me. But you go and tell My disciples that I have risen indeed. Mary went to tell His disciples that she had seen the risen Lord!
- In the meantime, as these other ladies were going back Jesus also appeared to them. And they came and held Him by the feet. Later on, in that morning before they got back with the fact that we had seen Christ; all they had was a message, We saw the angels, these two disciples took off for Emmaus.
- But then Jesus appeared to Peter. We are not told much about that.

Luk 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.

- Mary had told Peter and John earlier and they ran to check it out. But these are the women.

Luk 24:11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

- They did not trust the words of these women. It seemed like just hysteria, or they just did not believe. They were so destroyed by the crucifixion of Jesus. It had so shocked and disappointed them, they were afraid to believe. Their hopes had been so high for the kingdom, a better world that was

promised by the Lord that when Jesus was crucified and their hopes were so dashed, they were afraid to even hope again. Thus, the story of the women they just did not believe it.

Luk 24:12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

- Peter was questioning, wondered what is going on?
- John saw it, he believed! He is risen! Peter is still questioning.

The Resurrection – Its Importance!

- **Why is the resurrection so important to Christianity?** It should be **important** to every thinking person, who is looking for victory over death and for Someone who can provide a victory over death!
- **The resurrection of Jesus is important because:**
 - ✓ **It declares Him to be the Son of God, (Rom 1:4) and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.** By Jesus' resurrection from the dead was heaven's verification upon His claims to be the Son of God and to be God the Son!
 - ✓ **It reveals Him to be the promised Messiah.** The Old Testament scriptures foretold the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah. *(Isa 53:8-10) He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living. For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. [9] And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. [10] Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. Isaiah goes on (Isa 53:12b) Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. (Psa 16:10) For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*
 - ✓ **It reveals that man can be justified through simple faith in Jesus Christ.** He sees us as righteous, not seeing our sins, as if we had never sinned. No one has that righteous standing before God on our own. We gain that kind of a righteous standing by putting our faith in Jesus Christ! Then the perfection of Jesus's righteousness is put to our account. Now, when God the Father looks at us, He no longer sees our sin, but He sees Jesus as perfect righteousness, put into our account! *(2Co 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* That is in the Messiah. So, the resurrection put God's stamp of approval upon the fact. Again, in *(Rom 4:24) but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, [2] who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.* The reason that is **important** is that during Jesus' public ministry, He had declared that He would provide the satisfying payment for our sins. (Mat 20:28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. So, when the hour of His crucifixion came. Jesus died to pay the price for the forgiveness of sins.
 - ✓ **It shows how we as finite human beings, are to know that Jesus's sacrifice was acceptable to God** in order to provide us with this righteousness and this salvation, and that what Jesus had said was true about salvation? *(Rom 1:4) and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.* These are wonderful truths!
 - ✓ **It reveals that our faith in Jesus Christ is not in vain, (1Co 15:14,20) And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. [20] But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**
 - ✓ **It reveals to us Jesus' authority or His victory of power over death. (1Pe 1:3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,** Mankind needs a living hope! We need a hope that has an answer for this enemy called death within our lives. Jesus not only spoke about life and death but then He proceeded to demonstrate His authority over death through His resurrection!
 - ✓ **It reveals His power and authority over Hell. (Rev 1:17,18) And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. [18] I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I**

- have the keys of Hades and of Death.* Jesus has **absolute authority over these two great enemies** of mankind: death and hell! He has given us authority over them as well!
- ✓ **Is a guarantee of our own future resurrection!** Paul wrote in *(2Co 4:14)* *knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.* Jesus is not **only the guarantee** of our own resurrection, but that heaven is going to be our future eternal home as Christians!
 - ✓ **HE'S ALIVE!!!!**

SUMMARY

- ***How strongly does my witness and my Christian walk demonstrate the example of God's grace in my life? How visible is it to the unbelieving world around me?* (Luke 23:40)**
- ***Does my repentance truly acknowledge the justice of God, that He has done right, but I have done wickedly?* (Luke 23:41)**
- ***How visible is my faith? Can His witness through me be seen by others?* (Luke 23:43)**
- ***Putting myself in that situation, seeing Jesus on the cross in that surrounding, would I have loved my Jesus enough to do what Joseph did?* (Luke 23:53)**
- ***How is my tendency to worry? Do I frequently work myself all up, thinking that it is necessary for me to help Him out? That without my effort the whole program will fail?* (Luke 24:2)**
- ***Can you imagine a more shocking, amazing, and startling thing than this? Their minds would still be filled with the awful and tragic crucifixion scene, and now, He is not here, He is risen? Hallelujah!* (Luke 24:6)**

HE'S ALIVE! - The Gaither Vocal Band (4:52/4:55)

The gates and doors were barred and all the windows fastened down, I, (Peter) spent the night in sleeplessness and rose at every sound, Half in hopeless sorrow half in fear the day, Would find the soldiers crashing through to drag us all away. Then just before the sunrise I heard something at the wall, The gate began to rattle and a voice began to call, I hurried to the window and looked down into the street, Expecting swords and torches and the sound of soldiers feet,

There was no one there but Mary so I went down to let her in, John stood there beside me as she told us were she'd been, She said they moved Him in the night and none of us knows where, The stones been rolled away and now His body isn't there. We both ran toward the garden then John ran on ahead, We found the stone and the empty tomb just the way that Mary said, But the winding sheet they wrapped Him in was just an empty shell, And how or where they'd taken Him was more than I could tell.

Something strange had happened there but what I did not know, John believed a miracle but I just turned to go, Circumstance and speculation couldn't lift me very high, Cause I'd seen them crucify Him and then I'd watched Him die, Back inside the house again all the guilt and anguish came, Everything I'd promised Him just added to my shame, But at last it came to choices I denied I knew His name, Even If He was alive it wouldn't be the same. But suddenly the air was filled with a strange and sweet perfume, Light that came from everywhere drove shadows from the room, Jesus stood before me with His arms held open wide, And I fell down on my knees and clung to Him and cried, He raised me to my feet and as I looked into His eyes, Love was shining out from Him like sunlight from the sky, Guilt and my confusion disappeared in sweet release, And every fear I'd ever had just melted into peace.

He's alive! He's alive! He's alive and I'm forgiven, Heavens gates are open wide. He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven, Heavens gates are open wide! He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven, Heavens gates are open wide! He's alive!

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study *Luke Chapter 24:13-53!*