



PASSION WEEK

SATURDAY

Good morning. It is Saturday of Passion Week. Jesus Christ has died on the cross for our sins. His body has been buried in a tomb. Scriptures record one incident that took place on Saturday.

Matthew 27:62. The next day, that is, after the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, Sir, we remember how that impostor said while he was still alive. After three days, I will rise. Therefore, order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people he has risen from the dead, and the last fraud will be worse than the first. Pilate said to them, " You have a guard of soldiers. Go make it as secure as you can." So, they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. For them. It was a waste of time because the disciples had no intention of stealing Jesus dead body. And his resurrected body could walk through walls.

So, nothing they did could contain him. All their actions really did was to further confirm that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. So, while the religious leaders continue their wasted efforts to try and stop Jesus and his disciples, the disciples are understandably grieving his death. They still don't understand why Jesus would let the authorities kill him. On the next day, Sunday, we will find them gathered together.

So, they were likely together on this day. They had either observed or heard about the horrific death of their Messiah. On this day, they grieved their loss, his absence, his suffering, their hopes for the kingdom dashed. What will they do now? Where will they go?

They've left everything to follow him. And on this day, he was dead and gone. So, they grieve. You know what it is to grieve, don't you? You have suffered loss, some of you great loss.

You likely still feel some of the pain of your loss. They are feeling their pain and wondering what to do. I wonder if they took time to remember. When Jesus spoke of his resurrection, they had seen him raise several people from the dead. Could he raise himself?

Could God the Father raise him? Would that happen? Hopefully, they considered that. What we do know is that when Mary runs to them on Sunday to tell them she has seen

Jesus alive, they do not believe her at first, and they run to the tomb only to find it empty. But today is Saturday, and it is a day of struggle, doubts, likely fears, and wonderings about the future.

Was there still hope in their heart? Why don't we make that the takeaway for today? Be hopeful. Say that with me. Be hopeful.

Because God is described as the God of all hope. And that hope isn't wishful, unlikely thinking. It's rather an assuring knowledge of what is to eventually come. Our salvation is called the glorious hope. It's not uncertain thinking that we have been saved from our sin and promised eternal life in heaven.

It is that we are certain that we have been saved from our sin, and we are confident of what awaits us in glory. Think about it. To lose hope is to live in darkness and despair. But to have hope is to live in light and confidence that what God has said is true, what Jesus has done is real, and what we will experience is guaranteed. Be hopeful.

Encourage others to be hopeful. God will have the final word in all matters. The end of history is already written and revealed to us. That gives us confident hope. On days like today, there may be weeping, but joy will come in the morning.

See you tomorrow for Resurrection Sunday. Be hopeful. Let's pray. Lord, in the sorrows that have come and will come, we ask for your sustaining grace and your strengthening joy. We pray.

Now you continue. God bless.