

He Is Not Here

Mark 15:42 – 16:8

by Don Falkos

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There was a man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea. He was a reputable member of the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin, and he was looking forward to the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Sabbath was about to begin, so Joseph went to Pontius Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate couldn't believe Jesus was already dead, so he sent for the centurion who had overseen the crucifixion. The centurion confirmed that Jesus was dead. Pilate granted Joseph's request.

Joseph bought some linen cloth, took the body down from the cross, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a rock-hewn tomb. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph saw where Jesus' body was placed. When the Sabbath was over, they and Salome went out and bought spices for anointing the body. Just after sunrise the next morning, they went to the tomb. While they were on their way, they wondered, "Who will roll away the stone?" But when they arrived, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

They went into the tomb, and saw a young man dressed in a white robe. They were startled. But he said, "Don't be so surprised. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen from the dead! Look, this is where they placed his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, 'Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just like he told you.' "

The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.