

Burial and Resurrection

Luke 23:50 – 24:12

by Don Falkos

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The body of a crucified man was rarely treated with any respect whatsoever. Normally, it would be thrown into the valley of Gehenna to burn up with the rest of the refuse from the city. But there was a man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea who was a member of the Sanhedrin. He was a good and honest man who was looking forward to the coming of the Kingdom of God and had not consented in the decision to have Jesus crucified.

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pontius Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. His request was granted. He took the body down from the cross, wrapped it in linen, and placed it in a rock-hewn tomb that had never been used. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph. They saw the tomb; they saw where Jesus' body was placed; then they went home to prepare spices and perfumes. But on the Sabbath they rested.

On the third day, very early Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb to anoint the body. They found the stone had been rolled back from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in. But Jesus' body wasn't there.

Suddenly two men stood beside them dressed in dazzling light. The women were terrified. The men said, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen, just as he said!"

The women went to find the apostles and told them what had happened at the tomb. The apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up, except for Peter, who got up and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look inside and saw the strips of linen that had been used to wrap the body. But there was no body. Peter walked away confused, wondering what had happened.