

Teen Bible Study Notes: Friday, February 22, 2019

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The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ – Lecture #27

Book and Chapter – Matthew – Chapter 27 (verses 47 – all) & Chapter 28

MATTHEW 27

In our last Friday night Bible Study we ended with – **verse 46.**

V46 And about the ninth hour [*3 o'clock in the afternoon*] Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*’ ”

Jesus spoke these words in Aramaic.

V47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, “This *Man* is calling for Elijah!”

V48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and gave it to Him to drink.

V49 The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.”

V50 Jesus, when He had cried out again with a loud voice, yielded up His spirit.

The ***loud voice*** indicates that Jesus was still fairly strong when He ***yielded up His spirit***. The cry referred you was “It is finished” (See **John 19:30**).

John 19:30 “So when Jesus ad received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing his head, He gave up His spirit.”

The ***sour wine (or vinegar)*** was the same as he had been offered earlier (“wine mingled with myrrh” – see **Mark 15:23**) – and was intended to numb the pain. Jesus did not take that wine then because He wanted to be die fully conscious. Here at the very end, Christ may have accepted the ***sour wine*** in order to give Himself enough moisture and strength to cry out again with a loud voice. One of the agonies of crucifixion was incredible thirst.

V51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

Question: The Temple curtain covering the entrance to the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom in the earthquake that took place at the time of Christ’s death. Does this torn curtain have any special meaning for the true Christian?

Answer: Indeed, it does have tremendous meaning!

Exodus 26:31-33 – describes the original curtain which was installed when ancient Israel first built the tabernacle in the wilderness.

Exodus 26:31-33: V31 “You shall make a veil woven of blue and purple and scarlet *yarn*, and fine linen thread. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.

V32 You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia *wood* overlaid with gold. Their hooks *shall be* of gold, upon four sockets of silver.

V33 And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy *place* and the Most Holy.”

Similar curtains were made and installed in Solomon’s Temple (**II Chronicles 3:14**) and in the Temple of Zerubbabel (**Ezra 3, 5, 6; Haggai 2**), being renewed or replaced whenever necessary as centuries passed.

The temple had two veils or curtains – one in front of the Holy Place and the other separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. It was the second of these that was torn, which exposed to view the innermost room – the Holy of Holies – which was symbolic of the heavenly throne of God Himself. The beginning of the tear at the top, some 90 feet above the floor (Josephus, *Wars*, 5:5:5), was a sign. No man could have caused it. Only God could have torn the veil from the top!

Question: Why did God cause this to occur?

Answer: The rending or tearing of this inner curtain was done to demonstrate that God had opened up access to Himself through His Son.

Hebrews 6:17-20 tells us that we – Christians – now have a hope set before that is sure and steadfast!

Hebrews 6:17-20: V17 “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel [*unchangeableness of His purpose*], confirmed [*guaranteed*] it by an oath,

V18 That by two immutable [*unchangeable*] things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

V19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil,

V20 Where the forerunner has entered for us [*Christ has entered behind the curtain into that restricted throne room – not into a room on earth, but to the actual throne in heaven – see Hebrews 9:24*], *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

He entered as a *forerunner* for us – implying that we also may be privileged to come to God’s throne. And the torn and severed curtain shows the way for us is open, *even now* – that in prayer we may go direct to God our Father (**Ephesians 2:18**).

Ephesians 2:18 “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

Except for a few exceptions, there was no spiritual salvation offered to those living in Old Testament times. To the people who lived before Christ, God the Father was not accessible and was virtually unknown. It was Christ who came and revealed the Father (**John 1:18; 5:37**).

John 1:18 “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared *Him*.”

John 5:37 “And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.”

Hebrews 9:2-8: V2 “For a tabernacle [*a tent – which was later superseded by a Temple compartment*] was prepared: the first part [*the outer one*], in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

V3 And behind the second veil [*curtain*], the part of the tabernacle [*stood a tent – and later a part of the tabernacle*] which is called the Holiest of All,

V4 Which had the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which *were* the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

V5 And above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

V6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing *the services*.

V7 But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered *for* himself and for the people’s sins *committed* in ignorance;

Notice carefully what follows:

V8 The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.”

Nor was the way to the Father’s throne open during Temple times; this did not occur until the death of Christ and the ripping asunder of the veil or curtain.

Hebrews 9:11-12: V11 “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

V12 Now with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”

Christ has opened the way and obtained redemption for us. So what should we do about it?

Hebrews 10:19-22: V19 “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

V20 By a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

V21 And *having* a High Priest over the house of God,

V22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

V52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised – Because the Lord Jesus is the firstborn from the dead (**Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5**), and the firstfruits of those who are asleep (see **I Corinthians 15:20, 23**), these people could not have received their spirit bodies and put on immortality. They were raised, as Lazarus was, to ordinary physical life.

V53 And coming out of the graves after his resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

The fact that the people who were raised ***appeared to many in the holy city*** implies that they had been contemporaries of the people who saw them.

V54 Now when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

The centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus – were convinced that Jesus was indeed the ***Son of God***.

V55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,

V56 Among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

The three women mentioned here in Matthew’s Gospel – who were faithful to the Jesus to the end are named: **(1) Mary Magdalene, (2) Mary the mother of James and Joses** (the wife of Clopas – see **John 19:25**), and **(3) the mother** of James and John, wife of Zebedee, named Salome (see **Mark 15:40**).

John 19:25 “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus **His mother [Mary]**, and his mother’s sister, **Mary the wife** of Clopas, and **Mary Magdalene**.”

The Gospel accounts list three ***Mary’s*** who were present along with ***many other women***, and ***Salome***.

Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb

V57 Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

Arimathea – was about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

Joseph – **Mark 15:43** – describes Joseph as “a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 23:50 – describes him as “a good and just man.”

Matthew – describes him as a “rich man of Arimathea” – fulfillment of – **Isaiah 53:9** “And they made His grave with the wicked – but with the rich at His death...”

V58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

V59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth.

V60 And laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

V61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite [*in front of*] the tomb.

The two Mary's are also mentioned in **verse 56**. These women were witnesses to the burial of Jesus.

Pilate Sets a Guard

V62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gather together to Pilate,

This was the **Day of Preparation** – for an annual Sabbath, **not** the weekly Sabbath. At sunset the First Day of Unleavened Bread began – in this case the First Holy Day fell on a Thursday. The crucifixion had taken place on a Wednesday.

John 19:31 “Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for the Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.”

V63 Saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’”

The chief priests and the Pharisees described Jesus as a *deceiver* – when, in fact, they were the deceivers and hypocrites!

V64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him *away*, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

V65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how.”

V66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

To emphasize the impossibility of anyone stealing the body of Christ, Matthew stressed that the tomb was *sealed*.

MATTHEW 28

He Is Risen

V1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn – the Sabbath had ended at sunset on Saturday. The women came to the tomb at dawn on Sunday morning.

V2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

V3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

V4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*.

V5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

V6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

He is not here; for He is risen – Jesus resurrection had occurred on Saturday shortly before sunset. He was not at the tomb on Sunday morning as He had already risen from the dead before Sunday even began.

As He said – Notice Jesus’ predictions of His resurrection:

Matthew 12:40 “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Matthew 16:21 “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

Matthew 17:9, 23: V9 “Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, ‘Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.’”

V23 “And they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up...”

Matthew 26:32 “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”

V7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”

V8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

The Women Worship the Risen Lord

V9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” And they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him.

V10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. *Go and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Jesus made post-resurrection appearances first in Jerusalem and Judea, then in Galilee, and then again in Jerusalem. Both **Matthew 28** and **John 21** emphasize the appearances in Galilee. Galilee was the appointed location for Jesus’ rendezvous with His disciples (**Matthew 28:7; Matthew 26:32**).

The appearances of the risen Christ:

- 1) In or around Jerusalem
- 2) To Mary Magdalene (**Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18**)
- 3) To other women (**Matthew 28:8-10**)
- 4) To Peter (**Luke 24:34**)
- 5) To ten disciples (**Luke 24:36-43; John 20:9-25**)
- 6) To the eleven, including Thomas (**Mark 16:14; John 20:26-29**)
- 7) At the “Ascension” (**Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:4-12**)
- 8) To the disciples on the Emmaus road (**Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35**)
- 9) In Galilee (**Matthew 28:16-20; John 21:1-24**)
- 10) To five hundred people (**I Corinthians 15:6**)
- 11) To James and the apostles (**I Corinthians 15:7**)
- 12) To Paul on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9:1-6; Acts 22:1-10; Acts 26:12-18; I Corinthians 15:8**)

The Soldiers Are Bribed

V11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

The Roman guards *reported to the chief priests* because they had been assigned for duty to the religious authorities (**Matthew 27:65**).

V12 When they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

V13 Saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him *away* while we slept.’

His disciples...stole Him away while we slept – Besides being a lie, this was a very weak explanation. If a guard was found sleeping at his post or if a prisoner escaped, the guard would be put to death (*see Acts 12:18-19; Acts 16:27-28*).

Acts 12:18-19: V18 “Then as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter.

V19 But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded, that *they* should be put to death...”

Acts 16:25-28: V25 “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

V26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.

V27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoner had fled, drew his sword to kill himself.

V28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do yourself no harm, for we are all still here.’”

Also, sleeping soldiers do not make good witnesses. If they were asleep, how did they know what happened?

What a “cover up!” Satan has always tried to hide the truth and destroy God’s Plan of Salvation for mankind. God sent an angel to warn Joseph in a dream – to flee with Jesus and Mary to Egypt as Herod would “seek the young child to destroy Him.” He did not succeed in killing Jesus then – and now again Satan tried to cover up the fact that Jesus had been resurrected.

V14 And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.”

V15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Until this day – refers specifically to the time of the writing of Matthew’s Gospel, however, this explanation is current even today!

Although Matthew is brief in his discussion of the resurrection of Christ, he defends it very carefully. The resurrection was attested by several witnesses, including an angel, various soldiers, and the women at the tomb.

Finally, Jesus Himself appeared to eleven of His disciples, providing even more witnesses to His resurrection from the dead (**verses 16-17**).

Matthew presents the evidence for Jesus' resurrection with precision because the doctrine is essential to our Christian faith!

The resurrection is the only sign Jesus gave that He was the Messiah, the Son of God

Matthew 12:39-40: V39 “But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **V40** For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

The resurrection validates Jesus own prophecies (**Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19**).

In **I Corinthians 15:12-19** – Paul emphasizes the importance of the Resurrection by listing a series of consequences if the doctrine is denied.

I Corinthians 15:12-19: V12 “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

V13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, the Christ is not risen.

V14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty, and your faith *is* also empty.

V15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up – if in fact the dead do not rise.

V16 For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

V17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

V18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

V19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

The Great Commission

V16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

V17 And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted.

V18 Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

All authority has been given – to Jesus, although He is not yet exercising all of it. The word ***authority*** normally refers to delegated authority. The Father would give this authority to His Son.

Philippians 2:9-11: V9 “Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

V10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

V11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Hebrews 10:12-13: V12 “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

V13 From that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.”

Revelation 3:21 “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

He will manifest this power when He returns in all His glory (**I Corinthians 15:27-28**).

I Corinthians 15:27-28: V27 “For ‘*He has put all things under his feet.*’ But when he says “all things are put under *Him*,’ *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

V28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.”

These texts (**I Corinthians 15:27-28**) – say that everything is put under the Son, but God the Father is excepted, or excluded from this subjugation, because the **Son** must be **subject to** the Father.

I Corinthians 11:3 “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God.”

V19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Question: How do we become members of the “body” – the true Church of God? Can we join it? Or must we be put “into” it by God’s Spirit?

Answer: I Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Notice that this scripture does not say we are baptized **in** the Holy Spirit – but **by** it! The receiving of the Holy Spirit in our minds as a spiritual begettal actually **puts us into** the spiritual body of Christ which is His Church.

So just being physically baptized in water does not put you into God's Spirit-led Church. You must be put into the Church by the Spirit of God.

In – **Romans 8:9** – Paul tells us that unless the Spirit of Christ dwells within us, we do not belong to Him. We become Christ's when His Spirit comes into us.

Each member of Christ's body (**I Corinthians 12:27**) – His Church – is joined to the other by the common bond of God's Holy Spirit residing in them. So when we become Christ's by receiving His Spirit, we are then put "into" His body – the Church of God – by the Holy Spirit.

The Scriptures plainly show that it is the receiving of the Holy Spirit which automatically plunges us – immerses, "baptizes" or puts us – "into" the Church of God. This immersion into the Church by the Holy Spirit is termed by the Scriptures, "the baptism *by*," or "the baptism *of* the Holy Spirit."

Another "baptism" referred to in the Scriptures and directly connected with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, is mentioned here in **Matthew 28:19**. **Exactly what does this verse say?**

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The key expression in **verse 19** is the phrase "in the name of." In Greek it is *eis to onoma*, an expression nowhere else used in the New Testament. Contemporary literature in Greek from that time period has been found with this expression and shows its full meaning.

"The phrase...is frequent in the papyri with reference to payments made "to the account of any one"...The usage is of interest in connection with **Matthew 28:19**, where the meaning would seem to be 'be baptized into the possession of the Father, etc.'" (J. Moulton and G. Milligan, *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*, p. 451).

The receiving of the Holy Spirit following baptism *begets* us as the literal "sons of God" (**Romans 8:14; I John 3:1**), finally to become His *born again* sons at the resurrection.

Matthew 28:19 – simply means that when we receive the Spirit of God, we automatically, through this miraculous begettal, become unborn children in the divine family called "God." This becomes our "baptism" or immersion into both the family and power of God or into sonship, brotherhood (with Christ) and their inherent blessings. This is in *addition* to our immersion into the spiritual "body of Christ," both occurring at the same time.

At present, the literal spiritual Family of God consists only of the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the divine nature and power of the God Family – not a "third person" as some have assumed.

V20 Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Christ nowhere said that the “law was done away,” or “nailed to the cross.” Rather He commanded his disciples to *teach* and *observe all things* that He had commanded them.

Then He concludes that He would be with them “*always, even to the end of the age.*” God tells us that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Hebrews 13:5 “...I will never leave you nor forsake you...”

He is with His people yet today!