**They Couldn’t Keep Him Down**

**Matthew 27: 39-40, 45-54; 28: 1-10**

**39Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”**

**45From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” 48At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” 50Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”**

**1After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where helay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”**

**I. Terms to Know**

**derided** - to mock, ridicule, or express contempt for someone.

**forsaken** - to be abandoned or left behind.

**bystanders** - people who are present at the scene of Jesus' crucifixion, observing the events without being directly involved.

**Elijah** - a famous prophet who was believed to be taken up to heaven without dying.

**saints** - believers who had died previously, possibly including some figures who had been known as holy or righteous in their time.

**resurrection** - the act of God raising someone from the dead.

**tombs** - a grave or burial place.

**Sabbath** -the seventh day of the week.

**dawning** - the time of daybreak.

**crucified** -the Roman method of capital punishment where a person was nailed or tied to a cross and left to die.

**II. Summary**

* **Matthew 27:39-40 describes the mocking and taunting of Jesus as he hung on the cross. People passing by, including religious leaders, mocked Jesus by questioning his claims of being the Son of God and by recalling his statements about destroying and rebuilding the temple in three days. They challenged him to save himself and come down from the cross if he were indeed the Son of God.**
* **Matthew 27:45-54 describes the dramatic events surrounding Jesus' death on the cross, including darkness over the land, Jesus' cry of abandonment, and supernatural occurrences like the tearing of the temple curtain and an earthquake. The passage culminates with a Roman centurion recognizing Jesus as the Son of God.**
* **Matthew 28:1-10 recounts the resurrection of Jesus and the women's encounter with him. An angel descends to the tomb, declares Jesus' resurrection, and tells the women to share the news with the disciples. Jesus then appears to the women, who worship him, and instructs them to tell his brothers to go to Galilee to see him.**

**III. Questions**

**1. What did those that passed say to Jesus?**

**2. How long was darkness over the land? (Translate the time.)**

**3. What did those that feared greatly say?**

**4. What did the angel of the Lord do after the earthquake?**

**5. What did the women do when Jesus met them?**