

# The Last Week Of Jesus' Life – A Stone Rolled Away and An Empty Grave

Sunday AM 12/15/19

## Introduction:

For three days the disciples were confused, perplexed, and fearful. Then on Sunday morning something amazing happened.

### I) The Scriptures: *Matthew 28.1-8; Mark 16.1-8; Luke 24.1-6, 12; John 20.1-10*

#### A) Facts

1. Sunday morning, the first day of the week.
2. Jesus died on Friday and raised on Sunday, three days in the grave. *John 2.19-22*.
3. The stone had been rolled away.

#### B) The stone in front of the grave.

1. Heavy – the women were concerned about how they would roll the stone out of the way. *Mark 16.3*.
2. They came to finish the burial anointing, *Mark 16.1*.
3. It had been sealed to make sure no one came and took the body away, *Matthew 27.65-66*.
4. An earthquake came and rolled the stone away, *Matthew 28.2*. An act of God.
5. Guards were placed there to make sure no one came

and took the body away. Which they did! *Matthew 28.4*

6. The first proclamation of Jesus' birth was to the shepherds in the fields, *Luke 2.8ff*; the first to know of the resurrection were Roman soldiers.

## II) Why Was the Stone Rolled Away?

### A) Not...

1. So the disciples could come and steal the body away.
  - a. They were as surprised as everyone else, *Luke 24.1-4, 9-11*
  - b. The women came to the tomb to anoint a dead body.
2. So Jesus could get out.
  - a. Jesus had the ability to appear and then disappear
  - b. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus, *Luke 24.15, 31.*
  - c. To the disciples behind closed doors, *John 20.19*
  - d. To a host of people, *1 Corinthians 15.5, 8.*

### B) Why was the stone rolled away?

1. So the disciples could look in and see the empty tomb. *John 19.6-8*
2. They had to be willing to look in and see the empty

tomb.

3. To roll away the stone of disbelief, even after seeing the empty tomb they had trouble believing.

### III) **Stones to Roll Away**

#### A) **Some refused to acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God, why?**

1. Self-righteousness, *Romans 10.1-4*.
  - a. Trying to be saved by their own meritorious works.
  - b. Those thinking they have nothing to be forgiven of.
2. Selfishness – a refusal to put aside their desires and take on the desires of godliness. *Galatians 2.20*
  - a. A lot of people are wanting to have it their way in religion, Burger King religion
  - b. It is a hard thing to turn your life over to Jesus and sacrifice selfish desires.
3. The god of this world has blinded some and there is no place in their heart for the Gospel of Christ, *John 12.37, 39; 2 Corinthians 4.4*.
  - a. No amount of evidence will convince them to accept Jesus.

#### B) **Evidence to support Jesus as the Christ**

1. The Scriptures, *John 5.39*

- a. Fulfilled prophecies concerning His birth, life, and death. *John 19.36-37*
2. The works of Jesus during His ministry, *John 10.25*
3. Jesus' own testimony, *John 8.14*
4. The testimony of the disciple Jesus loved, *John 19.35*
5. The testimony of the empty tomb, of His resurrection.
6. Of His place as the right hand of God, *Acts 2.32-36*

Conclusion:

*John 20.30-31*