

A Weekend To Remember

On Friday...

📖 John 19:41–42 (NIV) “At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”

On Saturday...

1. Jesus' **enemies** were **worried**.

📖 Matthew 27:62–66 (NIV) “The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.”

2. Jesus' **friends** were **waiting**.

📖 Luke 23:55–56 (NIV) “The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how His body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.”

📖 Matthew 20:18–19 (NIV) “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

3. Jesus **Himself** was **working**.

📖 Ephesians 4:8 (NASB) “Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.”


📖 Luke 23:43 (NIV) “Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”


📖 1 Peter 3:18–20a (NIV) “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.”

📖 Luke 16:22–23 (ESV) “The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.”


On Sunday...

1. Jesus revealed Himself to Mary.


 John 20:1 (NIV): “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.”


 John 20:10–16 (NIV) “Then the disciples went back to their homes,¹¹ but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.¹⁵ “Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).”

2. Jesus breathed on His Disciples.

 John 20:19–22 (NIV) “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁰ After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”²² And with that He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

3. Jesus secured our eternity.

 1 Corinthians 15:17–20a (NIV) “...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.”

 1 Peter 1:3–5 (NIV) “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Digging Deeper: Why do people have a hard time believing Jesus will do what He promised to do? Why do we doubt the testimony of others? Would you say you are as loyal to Jesus as Mary was? When others run away, do you stay? Mary still thought of Jesus as LORD, thinking He was dead—do you truly honor Him as LORD, knowing Him to be alive? Jesus died and rose again so you can be with Him. Is Heaven where you are headed?