Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection

We've reached the pinnacle moments of salvation history in our Stations of the Cross journey. As we arrive at the thirteenth and fourteenth Stations of the Cross, we witness Jesus' suffering, death, and burial. Commemorating these events every year on Good Friday poignantly reminds us of how much Jesus Christ endured to accomplish our salvation. Yet, lingering at the tomb a while longer, we see the power of the gospel in Christ's glorious resurrection and celebrate his Easter victory over death with wonder and gratitude.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What are your Holy Week practices?
- What do new beginnings mean to you?

LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: *Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection*

READ Mark 15:33-16:8, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-42, Matthew 27:62-28:10

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, host Scott Hoezee reminded us that at Jesus' death, the curtain between the main temple and the Holy of Holies was torn "as a sign that now we have access to God." What does it mean to you to have access to God at any time without the need for rituals, sacrifices, or an earthly high priest?
- In segment 2, Scott and host Darrell Delaney noted that the religious leaders often challenged Jesus during his ministry about breaking sabbath rules, yet violated those same rules trying to secure Jesus' tomb and prevent a conspiracy. How might Christians continue to do something similar today: adhering strictly to beliefs that emphasize the "letter of the law" rather than the *heart* of the law, yet ignoring those same beliefs when it is convenient for our own purposes?
- How would you respond to the questions Scott and Darrell pose after reflecting on the abrupt way Mark's gospel ends after the women fled from Jesus' empty tomb: "Does this story end in silence in your life? Do you also tell the good news as you must? Does fear stop you?" What evidence from your life leads you to respond that way?
- What has stood out to you in this Lenten journey through the Stations of the Cross that we've shared?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Matthew 27:45-61, John 3:1-21, John 2:13-22, Acts 5:27-39

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection are crucial and foundational events in our salvation. It is necessary for believers to recognize Jesus' suffering to acknowledge the great cost he paid to accomplish our salvation, restoring our relationship with the Heavenly Father, and giving us direct access to his presence. Then our fears can fade away as our joy, wonder, awe, and gratitude take their place. How will you celebrate the atonement and salvation Jesus Christ accomplished for you this Easter? What are some ways you can extend that Easter joy throughout the year? Close your time of reflection by expressing your joy and gratitude for Jesus and for your salvation to God in prayer.

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