

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

OPERATING IN THE SPIRIT REALM

RLJ-1433

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MARCH 2, 2014

PART 4: DESPAIR TO VICTORY

VICTORY YEARS

During the 3.5 years of ministry that Jesus had on earth, with the exception of Judas Iscariot, all His followers were doing great. The group that followed Jesus on the journey in Galilee and Judah consisted of the 12 apostles, 70 other men and 39 women for a total of 121 persons, but on the day of Pentecost they had been reduced to 120 because Judas Iscariot had committed suicide.

The highlight for this group was when Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Messiah. **Matthew 21:1-11**

THE PASSOVER MEAL

The next two days saw Jesus spending time at the temple area with a powerful teaching, which would be the last public teaching before His crucifixion. He returned to Jerusalem on Tuesday morning, but this time only the twelve apostles were allowed to go with Him as they were going to celebrate the Passover. They passed the fig tree on the way in to the city that Jesus cursed the day before and He gave a great lesson on faith. **Mark 11:20-26**

All the joy left the apostles once they sat down to eat the Passover meal and Jesus informed that he would be betrayed and crucified and this was the end of the road for Him. **Matthew 26:20-30**

MOUNT OF OLIVES

The trip to the Mount of Olives was a horrible night for the remaining 11 apostles when Jesus told them that his earthly ministry was over and that they would all desert him. **Matthew 26:31-35**

GETHSEMANE

Jesus asked three of the most dedicated men to go with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane to be with and pray for Him. This turned into a disaster for John, James and Peter because they could not stay awake and fell asleep multiple times. **verses 36-46**

THE BETRAYAL

Judas Iscariot knew where Jesus would be on the Mount of Olives and he led the militia from the high priest to the spot and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. **verses 47-50**



ALL WAS LOST

After some arguing and a scuffle, it appeared to the eleven apostles that all the trust they had put in Jesus as the Messiah was in vain; they had wasted 3.5 years of their lives and they fled and left Jesus alone. **verses 51-56**

THE DENIAL OF JESUS

Peter tried to hang on to Jesus at a distance, but when he was confronted at the house of the high priest, Peter lost all courage and remaining faith as he denied and cursed Jesus. **verses 69-75**

THE CRUCIFIXION

Jesus was taken to the Roman governor on Wednesday morning and by now all the followers of Jesus knew that their dreams had been shattered. Christians living in the 21st century do not know there had been several men in Judah and Galilee who proclaimed to be the Messiah before Jesus and all of them had been arrested and executed.

The 120 followers of Jesus saw the same pattern; their leader had been arrested and now He was going to be executed. All joy was lost for them and their entire world crumbled. This was made real once Jesus was dead; all the great teachings and the miracles had gone down the drain.

The only ones that made it to Calvary to stand at the cross with Jesus was His mother, His aunt, Mary Magdalene, some other women and the apostle John. **John 19:25-27; Matthew 27:55-56**

THREE DAYS OF HELL

Jesus was dead by 3 p.m. on Wednesday and that night his body was put in the tomb. **Matthew 27:57-61**

Thursday, Friday and Saturday were horrible days for the disciples of Jesus. They were hiding in fear of the Jewish leadership, heartbroken, devastated and without hope. They must have wondered how Jesus could allow Himself to be captured and die on the cross with all the power He had displayed. The time spent with Jesus had been so promising, and now that He was dead, I'm sure they even questioned what Jesus had said about eternal life after death.

Satan and his demons must have had a great time of rejoicing; Jesus was dead and his followers were completely demoralized.

THE RESURRECTION

Jesus had repeatedly told the apostles that He would be killed and resurrected on the third day. The apostles did not want to hear about that and Peter became upset with Jesus over this issue. **Matthew 16:20-23**

The 11 remaining apostles and the 70 men were too devastated to even hope that Jesus could be resurrected and it was the women that first found out that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. **Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8**

The men refused to believe the women when they came back to Jerusalem with the astonishing news. **Luke 24:9-11**

Luke really brings out the mindset of the men that followed Jesus. They had lost all trust and faith in Jesus. **Luke 24:13-32**

Jesus had to personally show Himself a number of times to the apostles and the 70 men before they realized that He had risen from the dead. **Luke 24:32-45**

Jesus rebuked the apostles for their unbelief. **Mark 16:11-14**

For some reason the apostle Thomas had not been with the rest of the apostles when Jesus had originally showed Himself and he refused to believe the resurrection when He heard about it. **John 20:19-29**

Following the resurrection, Jesus spent more and more time with the apostles and they became confident once again; the mission of Jesus was not lost, it had just begun. **John 21:1-25**

The first hurdle had been overcome as the 120 followers of Jesus came to know that Jesus had indeed had been resurrected. The spiritual power they once had was not restored until the Day of Pentecost, the day that the church of Jesus Christ was born.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?