**April 21, 2019 “Why do You Look for the Living One Among the Dead?”**

**Matthew 27:57-28:15**

**Luke 24:1-9**

Sometimes I think that the Christian church puts far too much emphasis on Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, which is no doubt, a mind boggling event to be sure, when a child is born to a virgin who claims that Father of the child is the Holy Spirit and that which is born of her is the Son of God, who is called Immanuel… meaning “God with us”.

Interestingly, at least to me is the fact that that Child was born under the Law and was indeed subject to the penalty of the Law which states: the soul that sinneth shall surely die”. I think it is also incredibly interesting to consider that the opposite of that penalty of the Law is also true, which is; “the soul that does not sin shall live”. So evident is the sinless life of Christ, that He asked His vociferous enemies if any of them could convict of sin (John 8:46).

So then how could anyone who could not be convicted of sin be crucified? What happened to make certain that He who lived a sinless life, would willfully be put to death, not by Pilate, or by the Jews, but rather, willingly laid down His life for His sheep, which is an illustration of those who love Him with all their heart? (John 10:17-18) What? He was going to lay down His life willingly? And it was His desire to do so?

Why? Isaiah 35:6, “All we like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way. But the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”

This is the only reason, Jesus went to the Cross of Calvary… because God the Father laid on Him the iniquity of us all. That is why Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary.

1. Matthew 27:57-60
   1. Joseph of Arimathea
      1. Requests the body of Jesus
      2. Lays that body in his own tomb
      3. Rolls a stone in front and left
   2. The next day
      1. Who shows up?
      2. Chief Priest and the Pharisees
         1. Saying… He said He was going to rise from the dead
         2. What do you find interesting here?
            1. None of the disciples thought He was going to rise from the dead!!!
            2. Here we have His most vile enemies

They are scared to death of the Resurrection

* 1. The last deception will be worse than the first?
     1. What deception?
        1. Let’s see
           1. He healed those born blind
           2. Cast out demons
           3. Calmed the storm
           4. Fed 5,000
           5. Raised the dead (Jarius’s daughter, Lazarus, widow of Nain)
     2. What was the first deception?
        1. Pharisees said
           1. He is filled with Beelzebub
           2. He has a demon
           3. He was born of fornication
           4. He was a Samaritan
           5. He was drunkard and a glutton
  2. Make the tomb as secure
     1. As you know how
        1. How many here think the Pharisees were nonchalant about sealing the tomb?
        2. Any old thing will do… not a chance He was going to rise again
     2. Question… do you think they checked the tomb to see if His body was really in there?
        1. Would you check?
        2. How many here think that the Pharisees absolutely knew the body of Jesus was in the tomb?

1. Matthew 28:1-4
   1. Guards… Matthew 28:11
      1. How many of you if you had seen this would have told a lie to the Pharisees about what had happened?
      2. Chief Priests
         1. Gather together
         2. What are we going to do?
            1. Like getting a report

There was no evidence of collusion… or obstruction of justice

* + 1. Bribe was made… money always solves everything…

1. Luke 24:1-8
   1. Two men stood before them
      1. In dazzling clothing
   2. Women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground
   3. Question
      1. Why do you seek the Living One? Among the dead?
      2. Revelation 1:12-18
         1. I am the beginning and the end
         2. I was dead
         3. I am alive forevermore
         4. I hold the keys of death and Hades

This is the One who had the authority to lay down His life and take it up again. The question is, “Do you want to live forevermore with this One who has that authority?” Do you want to be declared sinless before God? Then lay your life down… so that He will raise it up.

How do I do that?

Tell Him that you have sinned against Him in the way you think, the way you talk and the way you live your life. Tell Him that you are sick of doing things that do not glorify Him and ask Him to take control of your life.

Then live like you mean it…