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Black Saturday

Narrator: Joseph of Arimathea

Primary Scriptures: Matthew 21-27, Mark 11-15, John 18-19

Story Summary: The last week of the life of Jesus

Location: Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

Time: Circa 30 AD

Indeed, without the resurrection of Christ, we would be in dire straits. If Christ had never been raised, “your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:17). The disciples had scattered when Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:50), and they spent the first Holy Saturday hiding for fear of also being arrested (John 20:19). The day between Christ’s crucifixion and His resurrection would have been a time of grief and shock as the stunned disciples tried to understand the murder of Jesus, the betrayal of Judas, and the dashing of their hopes.

The only biblical reference to what happened on Holy Saturday is found in Matthew 27:62-66. After sundown on Friday—the day of Preparation—the chief priests and Pharisees visited Pontius Pilate. This visit was on the Sabbath, since the Jews reckoned a day as starting at sundown. They asked Pilate for a guard for Jesus’ tomb. They remembered Jesus saying that He would rise again in three days (John 2:19-21) and wanted to do everything they could to prevent that. As we know, the Roman guards were inadequate to prevent the resurrection, and the women who returned to the tomb Sunday morning found it empty. The Lord had risen.

The Pharisees had a tendency to use their religious rules to help them avoid doing things they did not want to do. How could you use your faith in a hypocritical way?

Matthew 24:24 says that people will be deceived by great signs and miracles. How can you keep from being deceived by false teachers?

How can you use Matthew 24:44 to avoid being misled?