

The Gospel of John – Part 68

Jesus on the Cross – His Power Over Death

John 19:31-20:10

Desert Son Community Church

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March 31 & April 1, 2012

I. Introduction

II. Christ's power over death was manifested in His dying (John 19:31-37)

- Jesus was only on the cross **six** hours
- This was known as the High Sabbath because it was the Sabbath of **Passover** week

22 If someone guilty of a capital offense is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole, 23 you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance (Deuteronomy 21:22-23, NIV).

- According to Passover restrictions, no **bone** of the Passover lamb was to be broken (Exodus 12:43-47)
- Jesus was the perfect **fulfillment** of the Passover lamb (Psalm 34:20)

The Gnostics believe that Jesus' physical body was not real, but only "seemed" to be physical, and that His spirit descended upon Him at His baptism, but left Him just before His crucifixion. Such views destroy not only the true humanity of Jesus, but also the atonement, for Jesus must not only have been truly God, but also the truly human (and physically real) man who actually suffered and died upon the cross in order to be the acceptable substitutionary sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 2:14-17).

Docetism is the view that Jesus was God, but not human. Docetists essentially taught that Jesus only appeared to be human, but He in fact was not.

III. Christ's power over death was manifested in His burial (John 19:38-42)

The Great Sanhedrin was the supreme court of ancient Israel, made up of 70 men and the high priest. In the Second Temple period, the Great Sanhedrin met in the Temple in Jerusalem. The court convened every day except festivals and on the Sabbath. The Sanhedrin as a body claimed powers that lesser Jewish courts did not have. As such, they were the only ones who could try the king or extend the boundaries of the Temple and Jerusalem, and were the ones to whom all questions of law were finally put. The last binding decision of the Sanhedrin was in 358, when the Hebrew calendar was adopted. The Sanhedrin was dissolved after continued persecution by the Roman Empire. Over the centuries, there have been attempts to revive the institution, such as the Grand Sanhedrin convened by Napoleon Bonaparte.

- 75 pounds of spices would be used normally only to bury a **king** or prominent official

IV. Christ's power over death was manifested in His resurrection (John 20:1-10)

- The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out, but to let the **disciples** in

Meanwhile, the guards had scattered, but a few of them went into the city and told the high priests everything that had happened. They called a meeting of the religious leaders and came up with a plan: They took a large sum of money and gave it to the soldiers, bribing them to say, "His disciples came in the night and stole the body while we were sleeping." They assured them, "If the governor hears about your sleeping on duty, we will make sure you don't get blamed." The soldiers took the bribe and did as they were told. That story, cooked up in the Jewish High Council, is still going around (Matthew 28:11-15, The Message).

Six disastrous consequences if there were no resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:14-19):

1. **Preaching** Christ would be senseless (14)
2. **Faith** in Christ would be useless (14)
3. All the witnesses and preachers of the resurrection would be **liars** (15)
4. No one would be **redeemed** from sin (17)
5. All former believers would have **perished** (18)
6. Christians would be the most **wretched** people on the earth (19)

V. Application

“Live in the power of the resurrected life!”

But let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I'll probably never fully understand. We're not all going to die—but we are all going to be changed. You hear a blast to end all blasts from a trumpet, and in the time that you look up and blink your eyes—it's over. On signal from that trumpet from heaven, the dead will be up and out of their graves, beyond the reach of death, never to die again. At the same moment and in the same way, we'll all be changed. In the resurrection scheme of things, this has to happen: everything perishable taken off the shelves and replaced by the imperishable, this mortal replaced by the immortal. Then the saying will come true: Death swallowed by triumphant Life! Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who's afraid of you now? It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God (1 Corinthians 15:51-57, The Message)!