THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

VIc. The Day of Passover and The Crucifixion of Jesus (cont.)

Part 3: Friday, 14th Nisán (April 3), A.D. 33

Mt. 26:1-5, 14-19; Mk. 14:1,2, 12-16; Lk. 22:1-13; Jn. 12:20-50; 13:1 **Introduction:**

We have been studying each of the last seven days of the last week in the physical life of The Lord Jesus Christ on Earth. On Sunday, He was served a cooked meal at **Baythah-néeah** (Bethany) in the dwelling of Simon the leper, prepared and served by **Máhrthah** and eaten in second evening (sunset til dark) on Sunday, 9 Nisán (March 29), 'six days before Passover.' Jesus and His disciples retired to spend the night at **Baythah-néeah** (Bethany). They began the journey to Jerusalem in the next morning, Monday, 10 Nisán (March 30). He made His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and entered The Temple. Then He returned to and passed Monday night also at **Baythah-néeah**.

Then on Tuesday morning, on their journey to Jerusalem. That day The Lord Jesus demonstrated and expressed four of His emotions by: <u>Cursing the Fig Tree</u>, <u>Crying over Jerusalem</u>, <u>Cleansing The Temple</u>, and <u>Conveying Compassion upon the Helpless in the court of The Temple</u>. They spent the night on the Mount of Olives.

On Wednesday, Jesus spent more time teaching His disciples and the multitudes in The Temple with more details using parables in His teaching recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, than any other day of His three year ministry. Early Wednesday morning before dawn (c. 6:00 A.M.) on their way to The Temple from The Mount of Olives, Jesus and His twelve disciples beheld the fig tree, which Jesus had cursed the day before, completely dried up from the roots. He taught his disciples on this day during three segments of time throughout the day. First in early morning, Lessons Taught on the Way to The Temple, c. 6:00-c. 7:30 A.M.); then His Ministry in The Temple, c. 8:00 A. M-c. 6:30 P.M.); and His Ministry on the Mount of Olives, from c. 6:30 P.M. Sundown.

On Thursday, these six events took place in Jerusalem: The Consultation of The Priests, The Covenant to Betray Jesus, The Concern of the of the Greek-speaking Jews, The Concern of the Disciples, The Command to Prepare The Passover; and The Compliance In Preparation. When He finished His sayings on The Mount of Olives on Wednesday, it was nearly Sundown when Jesus announced He was going to be betraved to the chief priests and scribes, then finished His Teachings on the Mount of Olives. It was at that same time that Judas Eeskahreeotays (Iscariot) slipped away from the disciples and journeyed to contract with the chief priests and military leaders of the Temple custody (guard) to betray Jesus for thirty silver shekels. Early in the day the disciples approached Jesus and expressed a concern about the customary observance of the Passover. Jesus sent Peter and John with explicit instructions as to where they would observe the Passover. Therefore Peter would be the host and most responsible for preparation of the meal. The two left to obey their Master's orders. During the day, Thursday, certain Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews) came to Jerusalem, from Gentile-occupied foreign countries to observe the annual Passover in Jerusalem. They heard about Jesus and His supernatural works and desired to see Him personally. The remainder of the day was spent by The Lord replying to the Hellenists and teaching the crowd that surrounded them in their reaction to the unusual thunderous answer from The God to Jesus' brief prayer, "Father, glorify Your Name!"

Then in the second evening, from sunset until dark, "When the hour of

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His (to eat the Passover on the day of His crucifixion) had come, He sat down and His disciples with Him." They began to eat, then Jesus arose out of dinner and washed the disciples feet and wiped them with the towel he had wrapped around His waist. Then He applied His example of the act of foot-washing to them to wash the feet of one another and instituted The Lord's Supper and then announced His betrayal and gave the sop to Judas **Eeskahreeōtays**. Judas went out and it was night.

Then we observed the start of the last day, which began shortly before dark after which Judas went out into the dark. Thereafter we observed the breaks of time according to the four three-hour segments called watches or guards of the night.

I. The Second Guard of the Night: 9:00 P.M. to Midnight

While still in the Upper Room, The Lord Jesus Christ: announced His imminent glorification; gave The New Commandment; stated His first prediction of Peter's denial after Peter questioned where Jesus was slipping away and why he could not follow Jesus now. Then Jesus gave instructions for future service. About 9:25 P.M. Jesus began to deliver His Promissory Discourse of His coming again. Together they exited the Upper Room to begin the journey to **Gethsaymahnáy** on the Mount of Olives. After exiting the house (around 10:20 P.M.), as they walked through the city, Jesus declared His disciples will be offended. He predicted Peter's denial a second time. Jesus discoursed on New Relationships on the way to the Garden: The Vine and The Branches; Love; The World; The Paraclete; and His Own Departure.

II. The Third Guard of the Night: Midnight -3:00 A.M.

This guard or watch was broken into two segments according to what transpired.

A. Journey to **Gethsaymahnáy**: Midnight to c. 1:15 A.M.

- 1. At Midnight Jesus continued His discourse on New Relationships on the way to the Garden: His Departure by Death: Sorrow and Joy, Prayer, His Second Advent, Tribulation, and Peace.
- 2. About 12:30 A.M. Jesus began His High Priestly Prayer.
- About 1:15 A.M. Together they exited Jerusalem) and crossed the Kéhdrön Brook.

B. In The Garden of **Gethsaymahnáy**: c. 1:25-2:45 A.M.

- 1. The Hour of Prayer: c. 1:25-2:25 A.M.
 - After entering **Gethsaymahnáy** in the middle of the third watch of the night, He asked his disciples to pray with Him for one hour. Then Jesus went a stone's throw away and <u>prayed three times in one hour</u>, returning after each time and found them sleeping. The third time He prayed more intently resulting in sweating clots of blood. At the close of the hour of prayer, Jesus returned and said to them, ". . . Sleep the remaining time and re-freshingly repose yourselves! Lo! the hour has drawn near and The Son of Man[Human] is being betrayed into ⁰hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Be arising! Let us pass on! Lo! The+ one betraying Me has drawn near" (Mt. 26:45,46 APT).

In the meantime, Judas had been leading a company of Temple guards and attendants of the chief priests and Pharisees, carrying lanterns, torches, and weapons on the way to **Gethsaymahnáy** to abduct Jesus. The crowd led by Judas emerged alongside in the garden with an agreed upon signal to identify Jesus.

2. c. 2:25-3:00 A.M.: Jesus was Betrayed by Judas and Arrested in the Garden of **Gethsaymahnáy**.

Jesus approached the multitude being led by Judas **Eeskahree- ōtays** and asked, "Whom are you seeking?" When they named Him, He told them, "I AM Myself continuously being." Then they fell back on the ground away from Him. This was repeated, and Judas kissed Him. Then Peter cut off the outer ear of the high priest's servant, **Mahlkhóhs**. Jesus touched and cured it. The company of Temple Militia bound Jesus and all the disciples abandoned Him and fled. The Militia and the crowds led Jesus in bonds from **Gethsaymahnáy** on the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Peter and John followed the procession afar off. They crossed the brook Kidron, entered the city at the Gate of Ophel and went toward the house where they observed the Passover.

III. The Fourth Guard of the Night: 3:00 - 6:00 A.M.

- 3. c. 3:00-3:40 A.M. Jesus, being bound, was led through the streets across the city of Jerusalem to the southwest corner, just north of the house with the upper room, to the dwellings of Ahnnahs and Kaiáhfahs, with a courtyard between the dwellings, to undergo two trials. Along the way, young John Mark was awakened. He started to follow the crowd surrounding Jesus, clothed only with a bed sheet ('fine linen cloth'). He was grabbed by other young men but successfully fled leaving his bed sheet behind. They went to the dwelling of Ahnnahs first with Peter following from afar off. John, being an acquaintance to the high priest, entered the gateway courtyard. But Peter lingered at the door until John came and spoke to the doorkeeper, who admitted him.
- B. c. 3:40-4:00 A.M. Peter's Three Denials Twice Amid The Two Trials of Jesus Before the High Priests, **Áhnnahs** and **Kaiáhfahs**.
 - 1. The First Set of three denials occurred while Jesus was tried in the dwelling of **Áhnnahs** before the first cock crow (Mk. 14:.68). First Occasion of Denial: (#1) To the young-female-bondslave-doorkeeper while Peter was standing with the attendants warming themselves at the fire (Jn. 18:15-17-18);
 - <u>Second Occasion of Denial</u>: (#2) To a certain young-female-bondslave while Peter was now sitting near the fire (<u>Lk.</u> 22:55-57; Mt. 26:69.70; Mk. 14:54b.c.66-68d);
 - Third Occasion of Denial: (#3) To another of the same kind male (bondslave or attendant) a short time later, while still in the courtyard (Lk. 22:58).

Then Peter exited into the vestibule and the first cockcrow occurred (Mk. 14:68e). About one hour intervened between the third denial just before first cockcrow at c. 4:00 A.M. and the first denial after the first cockcrow, which is actually the fifth denial (Lk. 22:59a). During this hour Jesus was taken across the courtyard to **Kaiáhfahs'** dwelling where the trial continued (Mt. 26:57-68 cf. Mk. 14:55-65; Jn. 18:24).

- 2. The Second Set of three denials occurred after the first cockcrow while Jesus was tried and took place in the gateway (forecourt) or vestibule (Mt. 26:71) before the second cockcrow (Mk. 14:72a):). Fourth Occasion of Denial: (1) to the second (#2 above) female-bondslave the second time (Mt. 26:71,72; Mk. 14:69,70a); after which Jesus was sent to Kaiáhfahs (Jn. 18:24).
 - Fifth Occasion of Denial: (2) Repeatedly before some male attendants standing alongside with Peter warming themselves c. 4:55 A.M.(Jn. 18:25; Mt. 26:73-74b; Mk. 14:70b-71; Lk. 22:59,60). Sixth Occasion of Denial: (3) Before a bondslave (kinsman to

Máhlkhohs (Jn. 18:26,27) just before the second cockcrow. So that actually The Lord's twofold prophecy (Lk. 22:34; Jn. 13:38 cf. Mt. 26:34; Mk.:14:30) was fulfilled twice, first before the first cockcrow and again after the first but before the second cockcrow. There were six incidents of denial all together since there were two sets of three incidents in which Peter denied The Lord Jesus. Three times before the first cockcrow at c. 4:00 A.M. and three more times between the first and second cockcrow at c. 5:00 A.M.

- C. c. 5:00-5:45 A.M. Second Cockcrow to Daybreak. After Peter exited the vestibule to the courtyard of the high priests' dwellings about 5:00 A.M., Jesus received more violent, physical abuse by the chief priests, elders, and Scribes. They thrashed Him, blindfolded Him, and repeatedly beat His face and demanded Him to prophesy who smote Him. Also He suffered much verbal abuse by their mocking, blaspheming, and repeatedly speaking against Him. This continued for about forty-five minutes.
- D. At Daybreak (c. 5:45 A.M.), the body of elders gathered together, bound Jesus, and led Him to the Court Tribunal of The Sanhedrin at the southwest corner of the Temple outside the Temple wall for judicial confirmation to condemnation (Lk. 22:63-65; 22:66-71; Mt. 27:1).
- IV. 6:00-9:00 A.M. The First Morning Watch:
 - A. At c. 6:00 A.M. At the Tribunal, the Sanhedrin condemned Jesus to death; they bound and led Jesus to Pilate in the Herod Antipas Palace called the **Πραιτώριον**(Praitōreeohn) and the Provincial Trial began. When He saw that Jesus was condemned to death, Judas Eeskahreeotays approached the chief priests and elders to return the betrayal money, most likely outside the **Πραιτώριον**(Praitoreeohn) and not the Fortress of Antonia. But they refused and asked him, "What is that to us?" Judas went into the court Temple to throw down the thirty silver shekels into The Holy Place (Mt. 27:5)]. Then while the trial of Jesus before Pilate proceeded, Judas departed and hung himself upside down (Acts 1:18). After Pilate questioned Jesus about the false accusations that the Jews presented to him, Pilate expressed three times. "I find not one thing culpable (guilty of a crime or deserving censure or moral blame) in This Human" (Lk. 23:4,14,22). Then about 6:30 A.M., when Pilate heard that Jesus was 15:1-5; Lk. 23:1-7; Mt. 27:2-4,11-14; Jn. 18:28-38).

Jews accused Him. After Pilate expressed the third time, ". . . I found not one thing culpable of death in Him" (Lk. 23:22 APT), he told the crowd, "Therefore after chastising Him, I will set Him loose." In response they called for Pilate to do according to custom at Festival-time (Mk. 15:6 APT), that he set loose a prisoner to them. **Bahrahbbáhs**, a notorious murderer and insurrectionist, was being held prisoner.

Pilate unsuccessfully attempted to reason with the Jews the third time to release Jesus. Then about 7:35 A.M. Pilate's wife sought to persuade him to have nothing to do with Jesus. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to call for Pilate to set loose **Bahrahbbáhs**. Pilate put forth greater effort to release Jesus and claimed that he was not finding one fault in Him for the fourth time (Jn. 18:35). But the crowd prevailed upon Pilate to release **Bahrahbbáhs** and crucify Jesus. Twice more (fifth and sixth times) Pilate did not find any fault in Jesus (Jn. 19:4,6). When Pilate saw that he was not benefitting one bit, he took a basin and washed his hands and declared himself to be "innocent of the blood of This Righteous One." All the people answered, "His blood be upon us and upon our children" (Mt. 27:25). Finally Pilate yielded to their demands.

About 7:50 A.M. Pilate released Bahrahbbáhs. Then after Jesus was scourged by being lashed violently with a leather whip made of sharp metal or bone scraps inserted along three long leather strips, plowing His back as an open field the soldiers led Him away into the enclosed courtyard. The whole military cohort of 600 infantrymen was summoned together to further abuse Jesus before taking Him away for crucifixion. They unclothed Him and placed around Him a short, royal, scarlet cape worn by military commanders, causing it to adhere to His raw, bleeding back. Then they wove a victor's crown out of thorns and placed it upon His head and a reed in His right hand. Then they cast around Him a purple outer garment, slapped His face, and repeatedly spat upon Him, while repeatedly beating Him on His head with the reed. After that they mockingly, repeatedly bowed in homage before Him. At that time Pilate exited to the crowd leading The Lord Jesus wearing the victor's crown of thorns and the purple outer garment.

Pilate stated for the fifth time that he found not any culpability in Jesus. He said, "Behold The Human!" The chief priests and attendants shouted, "Crucify!" Again Pilate stated for the sixth time that he is not finding blame in Him. The Jews retorted, "We ourselves have Law. And according to the law of ours, He is legally obligated to die off because He made Himself Son of The God" (Jn. 19:7). When Pilate heard this, he reentered in fear and parleyed with Jesus. Then again he sought repeatedly to set Jesus loose, to no avail. Pilate led Jesus out to the **Báymah** in Gahb-bah-tháh, the 'pavement' outside The Antonia Palace at about the sixth hour after after Jesus' arrest (c. 2:30 A.M.). Pilate declared, "Behold your King!" But the Jews shouted, "Carry off! Carry off! Crucify Him!" Pilate asked, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king except Caesar. After further exchange, Pilate finally capitulated to them and delivered Jesus to be crucified (Mt. 27:15-30; Mk. 15:6-19; Lk. 23:13-25; Jn. 18:38-19:16).

D. 8:35-9:00 A.M. Friday 14 Nisán (April 3) A.D. 33 - From Gahbbahtháh to Gohlgohtháh.

The Roman soldiers took off the purple outer garment and then the scarlet cape from Jesus and put His own clothes back upon Him. Then they led Him "bearing His cross" to be crucified. The way from the **Πραιτώριον** to **Gohl-goh-tháh** was a narrow footpath not more than five feet wide progressing upward with six inch stone steps the width of the path for c. 450 yards to Herod's gate. On the way to crucify Jesus the soldiers found Seemon, a Kooraynah-éeohn and coerced him to carry off His cross to Gohl-goh-tháh, which means Skull. Two criminals were also led to execution with Jesus, while a great multitude of people including women were following Him, lamenting with a dirge. Jesus rebuked them with a prophecy concerning the future destruction of Jerusalem (Lk. 23:27-31). From Herod's gate to the crucifixion site was c. 150 yards. When they arrived at the top of Gohl-goh-tháh, they gave Him vinegar mingled with gall (poppy juice) and myrrh to drink, which He refused after tasting it (Mt. 27:34). [Mk. 15:20-23; Mt. 27:31-34; Lk. 23:26-32; Jn. 19:17]

THE CRUCIFIXION

V. 9:00 A.M.-Noon Friday 14 Nisán (April 3) A.D. 33 - Christ endured six hours of agony on the cross. Jesus' First Utterance at the Cross After Jesus refused the vinegar, the soldiers laid Him upon the cross and nailed His hands and feet to it. Then Pilate wrote a placard in three languages which read, "JESUSTHE NAZARENE [Nahzōraî-ohs, a native of Nahzahreth], THE KING OF THE JEWS" and nailed it to the cross above Jesus' head before it was erected. The chief priests attempted to get Pilate to alter it, to no avail. Two robbers were crucified with Jesus, one on each side. Jesus uttered His first expression while being nailed to the cross by repeatedly praying, "Father forgive them! For they are not aware of what they are doing." While the soldiers were dividing and distributing His clothes among themselves, people passing by below and those standing above were blaspheming, wagging their heads or just stood there observing. The rulers (chief priests, scribes, and elders) repeatedly mocked and repeatedly derided Him. Then the soldiers, while offering Him vinegar, joined in mocking and heaping insults upon Him as also did the crucified robbers.

[Lk. 23:33-38: Mk. 15:25-30: Mt. 27:38-44 Jn. 19:18-24]

- Mid-Morning - Jesus' Second Utterance from the Cross.

Jesus beheld: His mother, John the beloved disciple, and two other Marys standing alongside the cross of Jesus. Jesus uttered His second expression from the cross. "O woman, lo, the son of yours! Lo, the mother of yours!" Then John took Mary away from the scene to his own things" (Jn. 19:25-27).

- Around 11:45 A.M. - Jesus' Third Utterance from the Cross.

One of the criminals rebuked the other who repeatedly blasphemed Jesus. Then he asked Jesus to be remembering him whenever He come in His Kingdom. Jesus replied with His third expression from the cross, "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise!" (Lk. 23:39-43).

-12:00-300 P.M. - Three Hours of Darkness; the Last Three Utterances from the Cross.

At noon (the sixth hour) the Sun became obscure and the whole Earth became dark (Isa. 9:19) until the ninth hour. Then just before 3:00 P.M. (the ninth hour), Jesus cried out loudly with a great call, His fourth expression from the cross, "Aylée[Heb.: OMy God]! Aylée! lamáh[Heb.: Why] sahbakh-thah-née [Aramaic: have You forsaken Me?] OMy God, why is it that You forsook Me?" When this was heard, some of the ones who stood

there said He calls for Aylée" (Mt. 27:46). One ran, took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, placed it around a reed, intending to give Jesus a drink. But the others stopped him. Then Jesus perceived that all things were fully paid or fulfilled, He uttered His fifth expression from the cross, "I am thirsting" (present durative tense, Jn. 19:28). This time they put the sponge of vinegar around hyssop and offered it to His mouth. Then He uttered His sixth expression from the cross, "It stands finished (fully paid)!" The work of redemption is Finished. The debt He came to pay for all, fully paid! Finally Jesus released a loud call with His seventh expression from the cross, "Father, into Your hands I deposit for Myself My spirit" (Jn. 19:30). Then He expired. And the veil (middle full curtain) of The Holy Place was split in two from top to bottom and the Earth quaked and the rocks split. The centurion in charge of the crucifixion feared extremely, repeatedly glorified The God, and acknowledged the deity of Jesus, while the women who followed Jesus and all His acquaintances observed His passing away from afar off. [Mt. 27: 32-56; Mk. 15:20-41; Lk. 23:26-49; Jn. 19:17-30]

- 3:00-6:30 P.M. - The Burial of Jesus.

Since at least one hour into first evening and the Passover-Sabbath was approaching, the Jews asked Pilate that the legs of the crucified ones be snapped into two and their bodies be taken down from the cross so that the bodies did not remain on the cross in the Sabbath according to the Law (Deut. 21:23). Then the soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals, but when they came to Jesus, He was already dead. So a soldier stabbed His side with a spear. Thus Scripture (Ps. 34:20; Ex. 12:46; Zech. 12:10) was fulfilled. Then when it became sunset (onset of second evening), Joseph of Ahreemahthah-éeah went to Pilate and petitioned the body of Jesus. After Pilate granted him permission to take it, he bought fine linen cloth in a marketplace to wrap the body for burial. As he approached the cross, Neekóhdaymohs came bringing spices. They wrapped the body with linen and laid it down in Joseph's new memorial grave hewn out of a rock ledge at the bottom of Gohlgohtháh (Skull). Then they rolled a stone against the opening while two Marys observed the burial. Women followers of Jesus observed where and how He was laid down and returned to prepare spices for anointing the body of Jesus, then to rest on the Sabbath. [Mt. 27:57-61; Mk. 15:42-47; Lk. 23:50-56; Jn. 19:38-42]

We shall suspend our study here and resume next time with careful consideration of Saturday, the day of rest and Sunday, The Resurrection-Ascension Day.

Conclusion:

Today we continued to observe the events that took place on the seventh day in The Last Week in the physical life of The Lord Jesus Christ, on Friday, 14 Nisán (April 3) A.D. 33. We reviewed our study from just after sunset at 9:00 P.M., Thursday in the upper room in Jerusalem after Judas departed into the night from The Second Guard of the Night: 9:00 P.M. to Midnight through Third Guard of the Night: Midnight - 3:00 A.M. This guard was broken into two segments: The journey on the way to the Garden to Gethsaymahnáy from Midnight to c. 1:15 A.M. Then in The Garden of Gethsaymahnáy Jesus spent the hour agonizing in Prayer from c. 1:25-2:25 A.M., after which Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested. Then from c. 2:40-3:00 A.M. the Militia and the crowds led Jesus in bonds from Gethsaymahnáy on the Mount of Olives to the dwelling of Áhnnahs and Kaiáhfahs in Jerusalem where they conducted two trials.

Then in the Fourth Guard of the Night from c. 3:00-5:00 A.M. Peter's Three Denials Twice Amid The Two Trials of Jesus before the two high priests and were observed. Then during the time between Second Cockcrow to Daybreak, c. 5:00-5:45 A.M., Jesus received more violent, physical abuse by the chief priests, elders, and Scribes. They thrashed, blindfolded Him, repeatedly beat His face, smote Him, and He suffered much verbal abuse by their mocking, and blaspheming for about forty-five minutes.

- Then at Daybreak (c. 5:45 A.M.), the body of elders gathered together, bound Jesus and led Him to the Court of The Sanhedrin for judicial confirmation to condemnation.
- 6:55-6:30 A.M. Daybreak and Morning Watch: The Sanhedrin condemned Jesus and led Him bound to Pilate for Roman Trial with false accusations. After Pilate questioned Jesus about the false accusations, he declared 3 times, "I find not one thing culpable in This Human."
- c. 6:30-7:10 A.M. Jesus was sent to Herod for trial, abuse, and beating.
- c. 7:20 to c. 9:00 A.M. Jesus was returned to Pilate for sentencing. Finally Pilate yielded to their persistent demands, released Bahrahbbáhs, and turned Jesus over to the cohort to be scourged, tortured, mocked, and led to Gohlgohtháh, bearing His cross to be crucified.
- c. 900 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Six hours of Crucifixion in which He endured and suffered much abusive bodily harm at the hands of the wicked Jews and the Roman military for three hours, then three more hours at the Hand of God bringing His fiery wrath down upon Him, Whom He made Sin for us and endured Eternal punishment in worldwide darkness substitutionally for all humans of all time in order to provide Eternal Salvation from Sin and sins in silence except for the seven expressions that were noted. Then during the remaining three hours Jesus' burial was observed. [Mt.27:57-61;Mk.15:42-47;Lk.23:50-56;Jn. 19:38-42]

Application:

The Lord Jesus gave His entire life for you and for me. Time and again He challenged His disciples to come to the place in life to turn everything over to Him, yes to give your life, yes even your all, all that you have and are in exchange for His Eternal Life. Yes indeed, He expects my all and your all to be exchanged for the very best that He has to give to us, which included His physical sinless life in death at Calvary! He asked the multitudes while His disciples were present so it included them. What shall a human give in exchange for His soul? All of life is lived unto self under Satan's control until one exchanges one's soul for Eternal Life and Salvation, whether we realize it or not. The Lord Jesus requires total abandonment to Him in exchange for your soul. In return He gives absolutely new life for ever not just for a short time but eternally! Have you abandoned your life to Him permanently? If not why not do it right now? right there where you are? He abandoned His Eternal Existence in Heaven to come to Earth and He abandoned His physical life for you and me. Can we do less for Him and expect all He offers when He had to abandon all to offer be able to offer it to you and me? Don't hold anything back anymore! Let Him do in you, for you and through you all that He paid for on Calvary!

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: Read and meditate upon: the Sabbath and Sunday The Day of Resurrection:

Mt. 27:62-66; 28:1-15 cf. 27:52-53; Mk. 16:1-13; Lk. 24:1-39; Jn. 20:1-18