



World Relief LDI Discussion - Week 6

Scripture

Matthew 27: 57-66

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

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Summary (from Day 35, Jack Curham)

In Matthew 27, we read about Joseph of Arimathea's act of compassion as he tries to find a tomb in which to place the body of Jesus. In that moment, the sealing of the tomb must have seemed like an act of finality — of darkness and of despair. Can you imagine how Jesus' friends and followers must have felt? . . .

. . . However, when we read the entire account of Jesus' life, it is precisely in this sealed tomb that we find an unexpected message of hope. Just as the resurrection followed the sealing of Jesus' tomb, hope can emerge from the darkest moments when justice, peace and healing seem impossible. The message of Easter, of Jesus' resurrection and victory over death, is truly a message of hope — of new beginnings and of the triumph of light over darkness. As Joseph provided a tomb for Jesus' body to await a new beginning, may we also strive to provide spaces of safety, compassion and hope for those who need it most. Knowing that even in the darkest of times, hope can and will shine through.

Questions

Every week, we hope you'll take the opportunity to connect with others as you follow in the footsteps of Jesus together. Here are some discussion questions to help get the conversation started. Please first take time to reflectively read the scriptures, then pause for prayer, maybe even praying back to God words from his word. Then, with hearts cultivated by spirit-filled prayer, enter into our time of discussion.

1. Is there anything from the passage that moves or challenges you?
2. Is there anything in your life or in the world that you are feeling hopeless (or nearly hopeless) about? Spend some extra time praying together over these areas.
3. Have you ever felt God comfort you in the midst of a very difficult moment? What has been the role of community in this?
4. What kinds of things help you stay hopeful in the midst of challenges?
5. Do you know anyone who is currently struggling through a difficult situation? How can you be present with them? How can community rally around them?
6. Lent is a season to reflect on Christ's sacrifice for us, including on our own (and the world's) desperate need for him. Are there any other burdens in your life or in the world that you need to bring to him? Spend some time praying together over these.