

THE THIRD DAY

Jesus taught His disciples, from the start of His earthly ministry, of a Three-Day burial to Resurrection.

Our lesson text is one of those occasions of Jesus teaching His disciples that His resurrection would come on the Third Day following His burial.

Our lesson text takes place in the temple during the first Passover of the earthly ministry of Jesus (John 2:13-14).

Jesus had just run the money changers from the temple; and they ask for a special sign to prove by what authority He felt He could do it.

(Jn.2:18) The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us ^[a]as your authority for doing these things?”

Listen to Jesus’ answer to the Jews,

(Jn.2:19) Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

The Jews didn’t understand because:

(1 Cor.2:14) “The natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

(Jn.2:21) “Jesus was speaking of the **temple of His body.**”

This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of The Third Day.

1. John records that Jesus taught this doctrine at the beginning of His earthly ministry.

Matthew shows that this doctrine was a constant teaching to His disciples through-out His entire ministry (**Matt.12:38-40; 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:30-35; 27:62-66**).

The Scribes and Pharisees always wanted extra-biblical signs from Jesus, rather than the Scriptures (Matt.12:38; Isa.61:1-2; Luke 4:16-30).

Jesus gave them the sign of Jonah:

(Matt.12:40) “For **just as Jonah** was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, **so will the Son of Man** be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Hades) (Luke 16:22-23).”

(John 2:19) “Destroy this temple, and in **three days** I will raise it up.”

Some will say,

“What does it matter?” “All that matters is that He was raised from the dead”;

My response; It mattered to Jesus!

2. It mattered to His disciples after His resurrection on the Third Day.

(John 2:22) “**So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scriptures and the word which Jesus has spoken.**”

The disciples of Jesus preached a gospel of the death, burial, and a resurrection on the third day in Book of Acts (Acts 1-12; 2:22-24, 29-36; 3:15; 4:10-12; 5:30-32).

Philip preached to the Samaritans the message of the death, burial, and His resurrection on the third day and called it the **Gospel**.

(Acts 8:25) “So then they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and **were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.**” (Acts 8:40)

3. It mattered to Paul who preached the Three Day, death, burial and resurrection, as being an essential part of the Gospel.

(1 Cor.15:1-4) “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, (1) that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (2) and that He was buried, (3) and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Paul preached this gospel of grace salvation to the end of the earth as Jesus instructed him to:

(Acts 1:8) “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Three gospel evangelistic missionary trips of Paul were “to the remotest parts of the earth” as recorded in Book of Acts, chapters 13-28 and again in (2 Cor.11:23-31).

4. The Three Day, death, burial and resurrection mattered to the enemies of Jesus Christ (Matt.27:62-66; 28:1-4, 11-15)

Apostate Jews:

(Matt.27:63-64) “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘**After three days I am to rise again.** Therefore, **give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day**, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ **and the last deception will be worst that the first.**”

Guards of Tomb:

(Matt.28:4) “The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.”

(Matt.28:13) “They gave large sums of money to the soldiers, and said, ‘**you are to say, His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.**”

The Unbeliever:

- But the most important is it matters to the unbeliever for grace salvation (1 Cor15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

To Us:

- “Knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.” (Phil.1:16) [Ambassador] (2 Cor.5:17-21)