

Series: What Did Jesus Do for You and Me – Part 4

Holy Saturday – April 4, 2026, at 11 am & 7 pm

Holy Saturday

Jesus' Tomb Secured

Text: Daniel 6:1-24; Matthew 27:62-66 NAS 2020

Join Us: **Resurrection** 9:00; **Breakfast** 10:30

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: As we reflect on the original Holy Week, so much was taught by Jesus – **amazing**; and suffered by Jesus – **horrible**.

Today, we focus on the end of **Matthew 27** – *regarding the securing of Jesus' tomb*. We will draw a parallel with the securing of the lion's den – *after Daniel had been thrown in*.

1. **The Lion's Den Secured:** Selections from **Daniel 6:1-24**

- a. Daniel is given a high position: ¹ It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps [provincial governors] over the kingdom... ² and over them, three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one) ... ³ Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps..., and the king intended to appoint him over the entire kingdom. ⁴ Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel regarding government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation... ⁵ Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation... unless we find *it* against him regarding the law of his God." // Pointing ahead to Jesus being blameless – *our sinless substitute!*

- b. A trap is set for Daniel: ⁶ Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king...: “King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted together that the king should establish a statute [law] and enforce an injunction that anyone who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document...” ⁹ [So], King Darius signed the document...
- c. Daniel’s response: ¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the document was signed, he entered his house...; and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and offering praise before his God, just as he had been doing previously.
- d. Daniel is reported: ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel offering a prayer... before his God. ¹² Then they approached and spoke before the king... ¹³ ... “Daniel... pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps offering his prayer three times a day.”
- e. Daniel is thrown into the lion’s den: ¹⁶ Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and thrown into the lions’ den.... ¹⁷ And a stone was... placed over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed regarding Daniel... // Pointing to Jesus’ tomb being sealed!
- f. God protected Daniel: ²¹ Then Daniel spoke..., “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the

lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me... So Daniel was lifted up out of the den... // Pointing to Jesus being raised and fully restored!

- g. The lions were hungry: ²⁴ The king then gave orders, and they brought those men..., and they threw them, their children, and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. // All unrepentant ones will eventually lose!

2. **Jesus' Tomb Secured: Holy Saturday: Matthew 27:62-66** — only Matthew recorded what happened.

- a. Identifying the day: ⁶² Now on the next day [Saturday, probably early], *that is, the day which is after the preparation...* // Understand this: only the Saturday of Passover had a preparation day. Sadly, it was on that *special day* that Jesus had been crucified 😊.
- b. Hypocrisy and surprise: the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, ⁶³ and they said, "Sir, we remember that when that deceiver was still alive, He said, 'After three days I am rising.'"
- i. The Jewish leaders with Pilate: On Friday, *when fellow Jews were present*, they refused to enter Pilate's palace to avoid becoming ceremonially unclean (John 18:28). On Saturday, *they entered*.
- ii. Referred to Jesus as "that deceiver": A reference to His teaching and miracles to show He was the Messiah. Sadly, they refused to call Him, Jesus.
- iii. Concern about rising: Those Jews did not believe Jesus would be raised but were concerned the

people might believe it – *if His body was gone*.
Sadly, Jesus' disciples did not grasp His rising.

- c. Request to secure: ⁶⁴ Therefore, give orders for the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, His disciples may come and steal Him, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."
- i. Jurisdiction: Jewish leaders – *temple area*. They needed Pilate's permission regarding the tomb.
 - ii. They thought these were deceptions: **1st** – *He is the Messiah*; **2nd** – *He is risen from the dead*.
- d. Secured and sealed: ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard [the one I am giving you]; go, make it *as secure as you know how*." ⁶⁶ And they went and made the tomb secure with the guard, sealing the stone.
- i. The seal: Something, *maybe wax*, that connected the stone door with the rock of the cave – *so that any tampering would be noticed*.
 - ii. Our advantage: Their foolish request gives us *greater confidence* that no one stole Jesus' body; instead, **He was raised alive and well!**

Conclusion: Join us tomorrow – Jesus Is Risen at 9:00;
Breakfast at 10:30

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, TY for planning our salvation! Dear Jesus, TY for fully following the plan! Dear Holy Spirit, TY for gifting us with ongoing sorrow, faith, and obedience!

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