

From the Pastor's Desk

He Got Up Matthew 28:1-8

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. ² And behold there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: ⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. ⁵ And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. ⁶ He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. ⁸ And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.



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There is not much history in the early life of Jesus.

Here he has, for just a small amount of 3 years, when you go back at the beginning and his birth the writers of scripture do not give us but 3 brief glances into the life of Jesus during his first 30 years.

The first look we see is the night in which he was born. The angel announces to the shepherds on the plain *“fear not for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord, and this shall be a sign unto you; you should find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”* and these shepherds got a view of the little infant Jesus, who had just been born.

16 and 18 months later, the wise men from the east, they saw the star the night our Lord was born. But for them to travel from where they were located and eventually get to the city of Bethlehem was a tedious journey.

They had to go by either camel or by foot, and probably by both because they were carrying gifts. And from the time it took travel from the Far East to get to the Middle East and get to Bethlehem at least 16 months or so have passed.

Jesus was no longer an infant lying in a manger but he was a little toddler living in the house. Because the bible says *“when they came into the house”* not the stable but the house. That’s the second glimpse that we have of him.

By the third glimpse of him in the Second Chapter of the Gospel of Luke, he is 12 years old and has fallen in love with the Scriptures when he and his parent went up to Jerusalem for the observance of the feast.

These are the only 3 passages in the bible that gives us a glimpse (only a look) at Jesus during the first 30 years of his life.

But finally when he is 30 years old it is then when he goes to the Jordan and he says to his cousin John that I want to be baptized. And John lets him know, “no I have a need to be baptized of thee.” But Jesus says suffer it to be so for it behooves us to fulfill all righteousness. And Jesus is baptized and begins his ministry.

Jesus had to go through a preparatory stage. He knew what was going to happen but he still had to go through times of temptation.

I want to tell you that it does not mean that God is not with you because you’re going through a time of testing. You’ve got to be tested. You don’t know if what you have is real if it hasn’t been tested.

You haven’t had somebody to lie on you. You haven’t had somebody to plot against you. And if you can’t stand that then what you have must not be quite genuine. But when you got the real deal you can go through the test.

Jesus went through 40 days of the devil’s examination. And after going through the 40 days of testing by Satan himself, the bible says that every type of a way that a man can be tested Jesus endured for them 40 days. All that is in the world is in the lust of the eye.

The lust of the flesh and the pride of life. And every one of these 3 situations that Satan presented to him, one involved the lust of the eye the other the lust of the flesh and the other the pride of life.

After he successfully past all 3 tests the bible says that he came in the power of the spirit into Galilee. And this is when the miracles began. Miracles like changing water into wine, opening up blind eyes, unstopping deaf ears, and cleansing Lepers.

Miracles like taking 2 fish and 5 loaves which were hardly enough for a little boy’s lunch and he multiplies it for enough to feed a hungry multitude

of 5000 men not counting the women or the children. Miracles like causing the lame to leap for joy.

But what did he get in return? Jealousy, cruel lies being told on him. You would wonder well what has this man done. As I began to read it even again on this past week it wasn’t that they hated him so much for the miracles, but what they hated him for was because according to what they say he made himself to be the Son of God.

And for that they said he should die. Because he is blaspheming, he is saying that he is somebody that he’s not. But Jesus let them know, I’m not afraid of any test that you want to take me through.



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He understood that if he would die according to Jewish law that a legal execution of the Jewish faith would be stoning. If he

would be killed according to Roman law that he would be crucified by hanging up on a shameful cross.

But I hear him say in the 12th Chapter of John, If you think that I’m creating a commotion now, if you think that there is a crowd following me now, *“if I be lifted up from the earth; I’ll draw all man unto me.”*

Yes, they decided that he had to die. We got to find some kind of occasion against him. So they sent out the 3 groups. The Herodion’s, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees trying to entangle him in his own words.

You’ll never be able to trap him and entangle him in his word. Because heaven and earth will pass away before one jot or one tittle passes away from his word. They couldn’t do it so they said he had to die anyway.



So finally they were able to get 1 of the 12. One of the apostles, one that had been sent forth. One that he has sent with the power to heal the sick. He had sent with the power to raise even the dead.

By the name of Judas Iscariot, he plotted with the leaders. He said if you give me enough

money I'll give him to you. And then, Judas sells him for 30 pieces of silver.

There in the Garden of Gethsemane, out at the Mount of Olive, Jesus is involved in a personal prayer meeting. He took Peter, James and John a little farther than the rest of the disciples, left the others outside of the gate to watch to see what would happen.

Taking Peter, James and John a little farther, shows it's something about when you're in the inner circle you can go a little farther. Some folks can only go to church on Sunday morning, but others can go with him through trials and tribulations.

I don't know about you but I'm determined to go a little farther with Jesus. And even after he took them a little farther, Jesus went farther, dropped down on his knees and began to pray.

Jesus is praying, the disciples sleeping, while they sleeping, Judas is plotting. And after a while Judas come with a band of soldiers. Told them, now you watch the one that I kiss.

All of them may look somewhat alike but don't you bother anybody but the one that I kiss.

And when I kiss him to identify him hold him fast. In other words, look like Judas was afraid that if Jesus broke loose he'd be in trouble.

Jesus says, who you looking for? They say Jesus of Nazareth.

So if you take me let these go free and they ran like a bunch of cowards and you don't hear them showing up anymore because they're somewhere behind close doors for fear.

Peter followed from a distance as they went to the court room of Caiaphas. John showed up the next day at the crucifixion. But the rest of them you don't hear nothing from them until, Jesus on the evening of the resurrection walks into the room where they were and the door was shut.

You would never believe that the church would spread from a bunch of cowards. But when you read the bible and find that after the Holy Ghost came, cowards became bold. When they arrested him they carried him to the court room of Caiaphas.

Caiaphas sent him to Pilate. Pilate sent him to Herod. Herod wanted Jesus to perform some magic. He wanted him to do an instant miracle.

When Jesus wouldn't do it, Herod sent him back to Pilate. Pilate said are you the son of God. And Jesus wouldn't even answer him. Pilate gets angry according to the 19th Chapter of John and he said don't you know who you talking to.

I got the power to crucify you or I have the power to let you go free. At that point Jesus opened his mouth and said you wouldn't have any power at all except it was given you from on high.

In the trial Pilate concluded I find no fault in him. But the Jewish leaders said if you let him go you're not Caesar's friend. So Pilate said I'll tell you what.

Take him, and he called for a basin and began to wash his hands. Somebody said Pilate wouldn't have ever done anything like that. But you remember it doesn't matter how much power he had his wife came to him before he had an audience with Jesus.

She said you better be careful, I had a dream that worried me, and I've suffered many things because of this man. And Pilate was afraid because of his wife's warning. So he tried to clear himself by washing his hands and then turning him over to them.

And sayings do with him as you will. And here they are, people that saw him open blind eyes. People that saw him unstop deaf ear. People that saw him raise the dead began to say crucify him. Crucify him.

I don't care what you say about it but yesterday for Jesus was painful and heart breaking. Yesterday for Jesus was agonizing. Yesterday for Jesus was full of suffering because when they hung him on the cross, your sins were hanging on him.

My sins were hanging on him. Past generation sins was hanging on him. Future generation's sins were hanging on him.

Yesterday was a painful day. But he hung on the cross. Died till bread got hungry, Died till fire got cold, Died till water got thirsty, Died till day got dark. Died until the moon dripped in blood. Died till the earth began to quake. Died until the soldier smote himself on the breast.

And said we made a mistake this must be the son of God, Died. Hung his head in the lock of his shoulders. And said it is finished.

Father into thine hands I commend my spirit. Breathed out his life.

Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus went to Pilate and begged for his body. And they anointed his body, with a mixture to myrrh and aloes put it in Joseph's new tomb.

Joseph didn't have no trouble loaning his tomb to Jesus, he knew Jesus wouldn't need it for eternity.

He just wanted to borrow it for the weekend. Because EARLY. EARLY Sunday morning. Shook down a dying shroud Walked out of the tomb with all power in his hand.



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