



A JOURNEY TO THE TOMB

The silence was almost deafening. After three and a half years of the most captivating sermons, the most engaging lessons, the most extraordinary miracles, the most incredible events, Jesus now lay silent in a tomb.

His body would not move. His smile would not be seen. His voice would not be heard.

"Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

*The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. **Then they went home and prepared** spices and perfumes. But **they rested** on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment" (Lk 23:50-56).*

As Christ lay in the tomb, His disciples waited in their homes heartbroken. After everything they had experienced, their hopes were now seemingly crushed. They knew He had died and so began preparing spices and perfumes to anoint his body for burial. But they could only do so much because the Sabbath day was about to begin. On that day, they would stop all other activities and take time to reflect on God's goodness, His provision, His presence, His salvation, and now – His Son.

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISE

In a quiet place, perhaps in your home or a place you can have some privacy, spend some time preparing your heart for Resurrection Sunday.

Reflect: on the emotions that were displayed during the Passion Week. How would you have felt? What would you have done? Would you have run away? Would you have fought? Would you have attended the crucifixion? Would you have wept?

Think: through the events of Good Friday when Christ took your place on the cross. Imagine the sounds, the sights, the smells, the suffering.

Request: spend some time in prayer asking God for forgiveness and to reveal anything in your heart He would like to change. Ask the Holy Spirit for His help to renew these parts of your life to reflect Jesus more.

Thanks: take a moment to thank God for all that He has done in your life. You may want to write out a prayer, draw a picture, write down your thoughts, or look up your favourite Bible verse and pray through it, giving thanks to God for each part.

NOTES:

