



MESSAGE NOTES

April 4, 2010

Week 5

THE EXONERATION:

Jesus Overcomes Them All

As we come to the conclusion of our series we are confronted with some surprising twists to the end of this crime. We are dumbfounded why some of our main suspects would place a stone over the tomb of a dead man! We are intrigued that the Roman Governor, Pilate, would supply a guard for this cemetery. (Mt. 27:63-66)

But the biggest surprise is to learn that on the third day the tomb is found to be empty! Where is the body? How can we make a final determination about this crime, let alone make an arrest without a corpse? Most importantly, what does this startling new evidence mean to us?

I. CLOSING THE CASE:

- A. The _____ of the suspects after Jesus death.
- B. The legal _____.
 - 1. Corpus delicti
 - 2. Four tough questions:
 - a. _____ rolled away the stone?
 - b. Why wasn't a _____ started?
 - c. Why would grave robbers _____ the burial clothing?
 - d. Why were the eye-witnesses so _____?
- C. The victim predicted his death.
- D. _____ killed Jesus! (Romans 4:25)

II. CROSSING THE CHASM:

- A. The bridge builder who overcomes all chasm!
- B. The bridge spans:
 - 1. The chasm of _____.
 - 2. The chasm of _____.
 - 3. The chasm of _____.

SCRIPTURE TEXT

Matthew 28:1-6

¹The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

²Suddenly there was a violent earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, went to the tomb, and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. ³He was shining as bright as lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The soldiers guarding the tomb shook with fear because of the angel, and fell into a dead faint.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to the cross. ⁶He is not here. He has risen from the dead just as he said he would.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and those who place their trust in me will never die. Do you believe this?"