

CHRIST'S LONGEST DAY

INTRO: We have come to the day we call Good Friday. Strange how it got that name, but it did. Probably the most common word of 2022 will be "narrative." We want to look at the narrative of what I am calling Christ's longest day. I want to show you why it was His longest day. Every day is only 24 hours long but you don't get very old until you learn that some days are shorter than others, and others are longer. Some days seem to never end, though they are only 24 hours long.

The Lord's longest day begins in the evening. The evening, as you know, in God's reckoning is the beginning of the day. So Genesis 1 says six times, "...and the evening and the morning were..." and then it gives each day from 1-6.

In Exodus 12, when Israel was about to come out of Egypt where they had been in bondage for many years and they were forced to do hard labour, God was about to set them free. He had caused 9 plagues to come on them and now the tenth plague was about to be unleashed. Four days earlier, on the 10th day of Nisan, God had told every family to take a lamb into their home. Here it became the family pet. Then on the 14th day they were to kill the lamb in the evening and put some of the blood on the doorposts of their homes.

It is what this day pictured that became the longest day in the life of Christ. I don't have time to explain in this message how He could eat the Passover one night with His disciples and the next night He died when the Passover lambs died. Let me just say I believe it is because among the Jews at that time some followed the solar calendar and others the lunar calendar.

But here is what happened. On the day He would eat the Passover with His disciples, the day that the Passover lamb was slain, He sent them to prepare for the meal. This is beginning of the day we are looking at and commemorating today. On the Hebrew calendar this day was Nisan 14.

I. TO LAST SUPPER

Turn to Luke 22. This longest day began as the sun set and the disciples gathered with Christ in the upper room and they had what we know as the Last Supper. On our clock we start about 6:30. That is the time of sunset in Israel at this time of the year.

Slide 1: TIME 1

Here is a picture of Jerusalem. It would have been different in the day of Christ but I can basically show you where He went on this day. The upper room is the blue spot on the map.

Slide 2: Map 1

We begin in verse 7:

7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.

8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat."

9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?"

10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.

11 "Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'"

12 "Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."

13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

15 Then He said to them, "With *fervent* desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

16 "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide *it* among yourselves;

18 "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

20 Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

By the time this meal is over we are somewhere between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening

Slide 3: TIME 2

For the Jews, the day has just begun.

II. TO GETHSEMANE

We go then to Matthew 26:36. You see, when they left the Last Supper, they would have walked through part of the city of Jerusalem and out the sheep gate and down into the Kidron Valley, and then part way up the side of the Mount of Olives. To go to Mary and Martha's He would just have continued on.

Slide 4: Map 2

He makes a stop at Gethsemane. It is some distance to walk from where they had the last supper to the Mount of Olives. Every day He went from Jerusalem to Bethany to stay with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. It is surprising to me that He did not commemorate the Passover with them. But the Last Supper with His disciples was rather significant.

On the way to Gethsemane He told the disciples many things. We could read John 13:33-17:26 here as well as Luke 22:31-22:38. We will read Matthew 26:30-35:

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 ¶ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

32 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

36 ¶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

We are now at about 10:00 in the evening.

Slide 5: TIME 3

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*."

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are *you* still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 "Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

If we started here at Gethsemane at 10 o'clock in the evening, what time is it now? It is 1 in the morning.

Slide 6: TIME 4

He would now have carried on towards Mary and Martha's, but something took changed His direction.

We go now to verse 47:

47¶ And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."

49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?"

Stay in Matthew while I read John 18:4-9 here:

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"

5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.

6 Now when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am *He*. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

We go on in verse 50 in Matthew:

50 ...Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

51 And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

53 "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

54 "How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

56 "But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

He had prayed about three hours and by now we could be at 1:30 at night.

III. TO ANNAS

After the soldiers took Jesus they led Him to Annas first. Matthew's Gospel skips that Jesus was first taken to Annas.

Slide 7 - Map 3:

John 18:3 says:

13¶ And (they) led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

Things had developed to where the Roman Government placed Jewish High Priests and Annas was appointed by Quirinius and deposed by Valerius around AD 15 (Zond. Pict. BD pg 46). He had five sons who also were High Priests and now Caiaphas, his son-in-law was High priest. We are not told what happened at Annas' place. We are now at around 3:00 o'clock at night.

Slide 8 - TIME 5

IV. TO CAIAPHAS

I expect Annas didn't want this case. John 18:24 then says:

24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

I expect Annas didn't want this case. We are likely somewhere about 3 in the morning and now we go to Caiaphas place.

Slide 9 - Map 4: To Caiaphas

We pick up the account in Matthew 26:57:

57 ¶ And those who had laid hold of Jesus led *Him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,

60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward

61 and said, "This *fellow* said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?"

63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

64 Jesus said to him, "*It is as* you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!

66 "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands,

68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

69 ¶ Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."

70 But he denied it before *them* all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another *girl* saw him and said to those *who were* there, "This *fellow* also was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Let me insert a few verses from John 18 that Matthew does not record. I'll read verses 18-25:

18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

19 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.

20 Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.

21 "Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."

22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?"

23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"

24 Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?" He denied *it* and said, "I am not!"

We go on now in Matthew's Gospel verse 72:

72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are *one* of them, for your speech betrays you."

74 Then he began to curse and swear, *saying*, "I do not know the Man!"
Immediately a rooster crowed.

75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

I expect we are by this time at **about 5:30** in the morning.

Slide 10 - TIME 6.

V. TO PILATE

It has been a long night. Well, Caiaphas and the Jews have concluded that Jesus is worthy of death but they do not have authority to crucify Him and so they will now send Him to the Roman authority, Pilate, to have him OK death.

Slide 11 - Map 5

Now Matthew 27:

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.

2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*"

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood."

7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced,

10 "and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

We are now at about 5:00-5:30. In the very same night Judas betrayed Jesus, he took his own life. Oh, the

deceitfulness of riches! He died probably between 5:30 and 6:00 am.

Well, Jesus has now been brought before Pilate. What happens to Him now will be determined here.

John 18:

28 ¶ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

29 Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

31 Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,"

32 that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

We are now at about 6:30.

Slide 12 - To Herod. TIME 7

VI. TO HEROD

Now if you would read on in John or Matthew or Mark there is one step you would miss. Only Luke records it. When

Pilate found out Jesus was from Herod's jurisdiction he is happy to get Him off his hands and sends Him to Herod. It may be around 6:30 :

I think where Pilate was to where Herod was is very close together. Both were not far from where Caiaphas' house was.

Slide 13 - Map 6 To Herod

I'll read this from Luke 23:1-12:

1¶ Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate.

2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this *fellow* perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

3 Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "*It is as you say.*"

4 So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

5 But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean.

7 And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

8 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long *time* to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.

9 Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing.

10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him.

I would say we are now at about 7:30 a.m.

Slide 14 - TIME 8

About 13-14 long hours of this long day have now passed. Jesus has not slept for over 24 hours now.

VII. TO PILATE

When Herod did not get to see a miracle, verse 11 says:

11 Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked *Him*, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

12 That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Jesus is now taken from Herod back to Pilate.

Slide 15 - Map 7

Matthew says Pilate knew that the Jews had delivered Jesus to him out of envy. And then, his wife had warned about a dream she had had, and it had caused her much suffering. She told Pilate to have nothing to do with this man. So Pilate wanted to get this case off his hands. Well, he found a way to try to get this off his hands. It was a custom to release one prisoner to the people. And so he picked a notable prisoner, named Barnabas, that he was sure they would not want released. Then he called the chief priests and leaders of the Jews he asked whom they would like released, Jesus or Barabus and to Pilates chagrin they never hesitated. They wanted the murderer released. Then he said, "What do you want me to do with Jesus then?" And they said, "Crucify Him!" So he could give in to the pressure of the people or crucify Jesus. He gave in to the pressure.

We begin now in John 19:1:

1¶ So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*.

It is so easy to read these words and not comprehend or picture what this means. Scourging was a horrible procedure.

Verse 2:

2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.

3 Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.

4 Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."

5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, "Behold the Man!"

6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him*!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify *Him*, for I find no fault in Him."

7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

8 Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid,

9 and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

12 From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The Pavement*, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

15 But they cried out, "Away with *Him*, away with *Him*! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

What is the time now? I would place it about 8:00 a.m.

Slide 16 - TIME 9

VIII. TO GOLGOTHA

Jesus will now be taken to Golgotha, the place He will be crucified.

Slide 17 - Map 8: To Golgotha

We go now to Luke 23:26-38.

26 ¶ Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear *it* after Jesus.

27 And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him.

28 But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

29 "For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed *are* the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!'

30 "Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"

31 "For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"

32 ¶ There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.

We are now at about 8:30.

Slide 18 - TIME 10

IX. ON THE CROSS

Jesus is now crucified. He will be on the cross until He dies. Luke 23:33-38 now says:

33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,

37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

John 19:16-18 then adds:

16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led *Him* away.

17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called *the Place* of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,

18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

The place is Golgotha, the yellow dot on the map.

Slide 19 - Map 9

We have come to about 9:00 a.m.

Slide 20 - TIME 11

We are now about 15 hours into His long day. Probably about 27 hours without sleep.

X. INTO DARKNESS

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, with their deed done, they now sit down and watch. As Jesus hangs on the cross, He and the land are delivered into darkness. It is 12:00 noon.

Slide 21 - TIME 12

I'll read Matthew 27:33-50:

36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads

40 and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,

42 "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

43 "He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"

48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

What time is it after the three hours of darkness? It is now about 3 p.m.

Slide 22 - TIME 13

One wonders what must have gone through the minds of the Jews. What we know is that they did not repent.

XI. TO DEATH

What happens now? We read Matthew 27:46:

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"

48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

50 ¶ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

We have arrived at the time of His death and we know the time. It is lunchtime. When Christ died, the lights came back on. How long Jesus hung on the cross before He died we do not know. What we know is He died before people usually die when they are crucified, and we know that the two thieves lived longer.

John 19:31-37 says:

31 ¶ Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not *one* of His bones shall be broken."

37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

We are now likely at about 4:00 p.m.

Slide 23 - TIME 14

XII. TO THE GRAVE

Jesus is now taken to the grave. It will have taken Joseph some time to get permission, gather His materials and transport Jesus to the tomb he had hewn out for himself.

Slide 24 - Map 10

John 19:38-42 says:

38 ¶ After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave *him* permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.

39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation *Day*, for the tomb was nearby.

What time is it now?

Slide 25 - TIME 15

It is about 24 hours after His day began. He was buried shortly before sundown and He will now be in the grave for three days and three nights. His awful and long day has come to a close.

CONCL: And to close, I have good news. This is not the end of the story. A certain song writer says that the darkest time of the night is just before it gets light. Sunday is the brightest day for God and mankind. This afternoon we will commemorate the Lord's death in a communion service. The thought will be one I picked up from Hebrews 1. Jesus Christ purged us from our sins. What a huge thought that is. There is not a human being that has ever lived and will ever live that His payment was not sufficient for. It requires but true repentance and true faith to be purged from our sins. O Lord that we might honestly see ourselves and avail ourselves of this great purging!

