

Sunday School

Lesson For Sunday, April 1

By Dr. Paul Caudill

Topic: "The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith"
Lesson Text: Matthew 27: 62 to 66:9

The theme of our lesson, "The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith," is taken from Hebrews 12:1-3, a portion of the larger lesson, which the careful student will examine for himself, while in the discussion of the lesson we shall adhere to the printed text.

The Sealed Tomb
Following the burial of our Lord, Christ's enemies, fearful that his prophecy would come to pass, took added but future precautions in their attempt to keep him in the tomb. Matthew tells us that on the morrow the chief priests and the pharisees went to Pilate and said, "Sir, we remem-

ber that deceiver said, while he was yet alive. After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest haply his disciples come and steal him away, and say unto the people, he is risen from the death; and the last error will be worse than the first." Evidently the chief priests and the pharisees were haunted by the memory of Jesus' prediction that he would rise again on the third day. They would do all within their power to see that this did not come to pass.

Alfred Plummer, in commenting on Pilate's reaction, said, "He had tried to escape from their determination to have Jesus put to death, but he raises no difficul-

ty about the guarding of the tomb. Nevertheless, they are not welcome visitors. He had seen through their malignity before, and no doubt he was seeing through it now. He dismissed them with a curt consent to their suggestion. The only guard which the Jews had was the Temple police, and this they could have employed without going to the procurator. Evidently they wanted something which required his permission, and it is the Roman soldiers who are sent to guard the tomb." They went, therefore, and sealed the stone and set the guard, making, as best they could, the sepulchre "sure."

Not There
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary must have received the shock of their lives when, upon coming to the tomb, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, found Jesus not there. Said the angel, "He is not here; for he is risen, even as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

No doubt the women, just as the chief priests and the pharisees, were impressed by the fact that the sepulchre had been sealed and protected by a Roman guard. Moreover, as Dr. Broadus observes, "To break a seal fixed by government authority would be a high crime, bringing condign punishment. A cord was probably drawn across the stone which closed the door, and its ends were fastened by seals to the wall. This labor was contrary to all the Jewish ideas of Sabbath observance, and would be performed by the chief priests and pharisees only in some extraordinary emergency. We may suppose that they had expected Pilate himself to take all these steps, and when he simply authorized them to do so, they could not draw back."

Nevertheless, the power of the authority of the Roman government could not hold Christ within the tomb; neither could the military guard, nor the power of death itself. Matthew tells us that nature co-operated with God in the form of a great earthquake; "And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it."

Go, Tell
The angel had no message for the frightened guards but he did have a message for the fearful women. One is reminded, as he reads his words, of the comforting message of the heavenly host to the shepherds on Bethlehem's night. "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek

Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not there; for he is risen, even as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples, he is risen from the dead; and lo, he goeth before you into Galilee; there ye shall see him; lo, I have told you." Never was there so glorious a message delivered to mortal men. Think of those words: "He is not here . . . go . . . tell." They were not to bottle up this good news in their breasts; they were rather to share it with the disciples who, in turn, would share it with all mankind. This was one piece of news that must be heralded around the world. Moreover, they were not to tarry; they were to go quickly. It was an urgent mission. The most important message that has ever been entrusted to human messenger. Matthew tells us that they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to bring his disciples word.

Well might the fact of Jesus' resurrection be heralded to all men everywhere. If Jesus had not risen from the tomb, his whole message and ministry would have been rendered invalid. He had deliberately declared that he would rise from the grave. It had to come to pass, therefore. There was no other way out. The message of his resurrection has, throughout the centuries, brought consolation to the bereaved everywhere. By his own resurrection he pulled the sting out of death and broke forevermore the power of the tomb. So that now, even the dead shall rise at that day if they sleep in Christ Jesus.

Good Morning
One of the modern translators, in rendering the expression translated "All Hail," (verse 9), has Jesus to say as he meets the women, "Good morning." The expression, "All hail," as Dr. Broadus observes, "is simply the common Greek salutation . . . and there is no reason for rendering it otherwise here." Nevertheless, if one desires the freer translation, that is all right, for "good morning" is merely a form of greeting in the morning, and after all, so far as the women were concerned, it was not only a "good" morning, but also the most glorious morning of their lives. Now the resurrection had been confirmed by Jesus' own presence. But again the women are not to tarry; Jesus says unto them, "Fear not; go tell my brethren that they depart into Galilee, and there they shall see me."

The hub-center of the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord. Upon this fact hangs all the promises of the gospel.

HIGH LINE SERVICE IS ON THE WAY

War requirements come first and we are not permitted at this time to add greatly to our existing network of 12,000 miles of rural lines throughout this section.

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- Time of Shows 1:15, 4:30, 7:45●
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Statement of the Condition of

The Bank of North Wilkesboro

NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

At the Close of Business March 20, 1945

RESOURCES

Cash on Hand and Due From	15	
Banks	22	\$1,967,421.41
U. S. Government Securities	29	4,560,137.44
State of North Carolina Bonds	8	31,001.88
State of South Carolina Bonds		20,000.00
Other Stocks and Bonds		222,109.34
Loans		\$6,800,670.07
Income Earned But Not Collected		792,762.10
Banking House, Furniture and Fixtures		8,005.85
		58,510.75
TOTAL		\$7,659,948.77

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock—Common		\$ 100,000.00
Surplns		\$ 200,000.00
Undivided Profits		24,231.30
Unearned Interest		29,829.65
Reserve for Taxes and Accrued Expense		24,689.54
Reserve for Depreciation Building, Furniture and Fixtures		18,821.74
Reserve for Premium on Bonds and Contingencies		21,923.16
Other Reserves		11,227.46
DEPOSITS		\$7,229,225.92
TOTAL		\$7,659,948.77

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