

## When Jesus Seems Silent



Gary Wilkerson March 2, 2020

After Jesus was crucified, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea, took our Savior's body and placed it in his own tomb. A massive stone was then rolled in place to seal the entrance to the tomb — causing all those around the Master to feel profoundly heartbroken and despondent. Scripture says a group of women, including Mary Magdalene, sat opposite the tomb, probably asking, "What will happen now that Jesus is gone? How do we go on?" (see Matthew 27: 57-61).

Then there were the disciples, who shut themselves up in a room, paralyzed with fear. "The doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews" (John 20:19). What were these disciples thinking? They could hardly imagine what was going to become of them all now that Jesus was gone.

We cannot fathom what Jesus' death meant to his passionate followers. Their Master, the hope of the world, had healed the sick and lame, raised the dead, set captives free, and preached the good news of salvation. He was the embodiment of the new kingdom he preached about and when he said, "It is finished," they must have thought he meant, "It's over. I did everything I could but I couldn't make it happen. This is the end of the story." They were all looking at things with the attitudes they held before the resurrection. But today we know the glorious end of the story.

Sadly, all too often Christians believe the wrong message as they endure the trials of life. They see no hope beyond their difficult situation, as if a stone permanently separates them from confidence and trust in the promises of God. Like the women at the tomb or the dejected disciples, all they can see before them is defeat — but Jesus has the last word!

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing **over** them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15, NIV). Jesus triumphed over all principalities and powers when he rose from the grave. His victory has overcome all your failures! His power can set you free from addiction; his healing can restore broken relationships; his love can conquer every evil that tries to beat you down.

Know this! Jesus is always working on your behalf and he is on the move in your life at this very moment.

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