

## **“Moving on to Sunday!”** Easter Sunday 2014

Where is the god who can compare with you —  
wiping the slate clean of guilt, turning a blind eye, a deaf ear, to the past sins of your  
purged and precious people? You don't nurse your anger and don't stay angry long, for  
mercy is your specialty. That's what you love most. And compassion is on its way to us.  
You'll stamp out our wrongdoing. You'll sink our sins to the  
bottom of the ocean. Micah 7:18-19 (MSG)

### **The Story:**

#### **1. Crucifixion Friday**

**Celebration day**—Matthew 27:39-42

The **saddest day**—Matthew 27:46 and 50

**Desertion day**—Matthew 27:55

**Thought:** Can you imagine the Sadducees and Pharisees at home celebrating the Passover Seder?

#### **2. Desperation Saturday**

##### **Worry day**

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."  
Matthew 27:62-64

##### **No hope day**

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:31

... He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

Mark 9:31-32

... Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief

priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

Mark 10:32-34

### **No plans day**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" Mark 16:1-3

## **3. Resurrection Sunday**

### **Empty tomb day**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

John 20:1-2

### **Angel appearance day**

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" ... John 20:10-13

### **No recognition day**

... "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." John 20:13-15

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. Luke 24:13-16

### **No courage day**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the

disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews...  
20:19

John

***“It may have been Sunday, but the disciples  
were still in a Saturday state of mind.”***

### **Jesus is alive day**

... Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

John 20:19-20

### **The story continues: Acts 2:29-36 and 41**

**Application:** Unless you find the answer for the death question, you're stuck on Saturday, but the story of God's love says, "God doesn't give up." He keeps coming and he just keeps pursuing us. His message is, "Saturday will always be followed by Sunday."

***Sorrow may last for the night,  
but joy comes in the morning.***

Why did Jesus appear to Mary Magdalene? Because that's just the kind of person Jesus is. He is the God of all mercy and compassion. Shhh! Be quiet and listen—Jesus is also calling your name. It's Sunday! It's Sunday! God is inviting you to move on from Saturday into Sunday. The choice is yours.

"Moving On to Sunday" Resurrection Sunday, April 20, 2014. All verses are from the New International version unless noted.