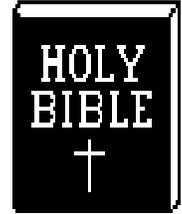


SERMON NOTES



Speaker: James E. Rogers
Date: August 31, 2014
Place: Smyrna, Cookeville, Tennessee
Subject: The Garden Of Golgotha

I. INTRODUCTION

A. There are a number of gardens mentioned in the Bible and most are connected with significant persons or events in Bible history.

B. "Gardens in Biblical times, such as are frequently referred to in Semitic literature, were usually walled enclosures, as the name indicates . . . in which there were paths winding in and out among shade and fruit trees, canals of running water, fountains, sweet-smelling herbs, aromatic blossoms and convenient arbors in which to sit and enjoy the effect."¹

C. Let us look at the Garden of Golgotha and learn great lessons.

II. THE GARDEN OF THE GRAVE, GLORY AND GOING. JOHN 19:38-42; MATTHEW 27:57-28:20; MARK 15:42-16:20; LUKE 23:50-24:53

A. The garden of the grave. John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:51-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56

1. The time. Matthew 27:57

a. "When even was come." "Opse . . . really signifies the late evening, the latter of the two evenings as reckoned by the Jews . . . after sunset . . ."²

b. This was "the Preparation (*paraskeue*), that is, the day before the sabbath" (Mark 15:42). "The reference would be to the 6th day of the week. The title arose from the need of preparing food etc. for the Sabbath. Apparently it was first applied only to the afternoon of the 6th day; later, to the whole day."³

2. The men who came. Matthew 27:57; John 19:39-42

a. Joseph, a rich man "of honorable estate" (*euschemon* which is used here "with reference to social degree, influential . . ."⁴, Acts 13:50; 17:12). Mark 15:43

b. Nicodemus, who at first had come to Jesus by night (John 3:1-21). John 19:39-42

c. "Is it not absolutely remarkable that a prophet, seven hundred years earlier, had foretold that though Christ's murderers had designed that his grave would be with the wicked (he was crucified between two thieves), yet, contrary to all reason, he was buried with the rich! How could such a prediction possibly have

happened by chance? It could not! He who knows 'the end from the beginning' caused it to be written!"⁵

3. The actions of Mary, Joseph and Nicodemus. Matthew 26:6-12; 27:59,60; John 12:1-8; 19:40-42

- a. Six days before Jesus' crucifixion, at a feast in Bethany, Mary anointed Him for His burial. John 12:1-8; Matthew 26:6-12
- b. Joseph and Nicodemus took the body down from the cross. Matthew 27:59; John 19:40. This would defile them so that they could not eat the Passover (Numbers 9:6-14; 19:11-22).
- c. Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped the body in a clean linen cloth with spices as the custom of the Jews is to bury. Matthew 27:59; John 11:44; 19:40
- d. Time did not allow Joseph and Nicodemus to carry out all of the normal activities of burial.
- e. Joseph took the body and laid it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out in the rock. Matthew 27:60; John 19:41,42
- f. Joseph rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and departed. Matthew 27:60

4. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (the mother of Joseph) were sitting over against the sepulchre and beheld where he was laid. Mark 15:47; Matthew 27:61

5. The women who had come with him out of Galilee followed after Joseph and beheld the tomb and how his body was laid. They returned and prepared spices and ointments. Luke 23:55,56

6. The Sanhedrin made the tomb as sure as they could. Matthew 27:62-66

- a. The day after the Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came to Pilate and asked him to make the sepulchre sure for three days. 27:62-64
- b. Pilate reminded the Sanhedrin that they had a guard and told them to "make it as sure as ye can." 27:65
- c. The Sanhedrin went and made the sepulchre sure by sealing it with the Roman seal and stationing the guard at the tomb. 27:66
- d. "Without realizing it, the Jewish leaders and the Roman government joined forces to help prove the resurrection of Jesus Christ."⁶

B. The garden of glory. Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:1-6; Luke 24:1-7. "He is not here; for he is risen."

1. His resurrection was discovered late on the sabbath day, as it began to dawn toward

the first day of the week. Matthew 28:1

- a. They had rested on the sabbath according to the Law of Moses. Luke 24:1
- b. "Very early on the first day of the week . . . when the sun was risen." Mark 16:2
- c. "On the first day of the week, at early dawn." Luke 24:1

2. His resurrection was discovered by Mary Magdalene (Matthew 28:1), "The other Mary" (28:1) who was Mary, the mother of James (Mark 16:1), Salome (Mark 16:1), Joanna and other women (Luke 24:10).

3. His resurrection was from the sepulchre. Matthew 28:1

- a. These women had come "to see the sepulchre." "See" is from *theoreo* which "denotes to be a spectator of , indicating the careful perusal of details in the object"7
- b. They bought spices with which to anoint the body of Jesus. Mark 16:1
- c. Up From The Grave He Arose!

4. The angelic activity associated with his resurrection. Matthew 28:2-10

- a. There was a great earthquake caused by "an angel of the Lord" who "descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it." Matthew 28:2
- b. The angel calmed the fear of the women. Matthew 28:5. "Fear not ye."
- c. The angel commented on their mission. Matthew 28:5. "I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified."
- d. The angel confirmed the resurrection. Matthew 28:6
- e. The angel called for them to see the empty tomb. Matthew 28:6

C. The garden of going. Matthew 28:7-20; Mark 16:7-20; Luke 24:9-53

1. We must "go quickly and tell his disciples. Matthew 28:7-17; Mark 16:7-13; Luke 24:9-12

- a. The angel commissioned the women to take the message of the resurrection to the disciples. Matthew 28:7
- b. This same message is to be delivered today.

2. We must "go . . . and make disciples of all the nations." Matthew 28:16-20

- a. On an appointed mountain in Galilee (Matthew 26:32) Jesus met with his - disciples. 28:7,10,16
 - b. When they saw him, they worshipped (*proskuneo*, “to make obeisance, do reverence to (from *pros*, towards, and *kuneo*, to kiss) . . .”⁸) him. 28:17
 - c. Some doubted (*distazo*, “to stand in two ways (*dis*, double, *stasis*, a standing), implying uncertainty which way to take . . .”⁹).
 - d. Jesus gave his disciples a mission dominated by “all’s”. 28:18-20
 - e. The application of the mission. Acts provides examples of the mission in action.
3. We must go and lie to discredit the resurrection. Matthew 28:11-15
- a. The meeting of the guard with the chief priests. 28:11
 - b. The meeting of the guard with the Sanhedrin. 28:12-15

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The Garden of Golgotha sets forth the gift of God for man’s sin.
- B. As you look at the things found in this garden, where do you stand in your relationship to God?
- C. Obey the Gospel.
- D. Live faithfully.

ENDNOTES

1. James Orr, Ed., The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1939), Volume 2, p. 1174
2. W. E. Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, Co., 1966), Volume 2, p. 44
3. Vine, Volume 3, p. 204
4. Vine, Volume 2, p. 42
5. Wayne Jackson, “The Burial of the Lord’s Body,” *Gospel Advocate*, Vol. CXXIII, No. 5, (March 5, 1981), p. 141 (Emphasis WJ)
6. Wiersbe, p. 104
7. Vine, Volume 3, p. 338
8. Vine, Volume 4, p. 235

9. Vine, Volume 1, p. 335