

Know Not; Luke 23:33-35

- I. Jesus Words
 - A. Jesus brought a message of salvation
 - B. An eternal dwelling with God
 - C. A “garden” relationship with the Father
 - D. Everything He did and said pointed to that
- II. Ignorance
 - A. Paul and Barnabas are in the Synagogue in Antioch of Psidia
 - B. He is giving them a history lesson starting with their slavery in Egypt
 - 1. The exodus
 - 2. Their inheritance of the land
 - 3. The judges
 - 4. The kings (with emphasis on David)
 - 5. Acts 13:23-32
 - 6. Even though they knew the Law, they knew the prophecies, and they were expecting a Messiah, they did not understand that the Messiah was Jesus
 - C. Even Paul claims this ignorance
 - D. 1 Timothy 1:12–15 (ESV); ¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
 - E. Peter and John were walking by the Temple gate called Beautiful
 - 1. A man was begging for alms
 - 2. Peter healed him
 - 3. Everyone is in awe at this healing and flock to Peter and John
 - 4. Peter uses this opportunity to address the crowd
 - 5. Acts 3:12–18 (ESV); ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.
 - F. But ignorance is not an excuse
 - 1. Paul is in Athens speaking to people who are committed to worshipping idols
 - 2. Acts 17:29–31 (ESV); ²⁹ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”
 - G. How do you combat ignorance? With knowledge
- III. Knowledge
 - A. There are two main events (one is a series of events) that I have not found an adequate answer to other than Jesus is the Messiah

1. Keep in mind there is plenty of other evidence
 2. Like the crucifixion — darkness, earthquake, dead walking, veil torn in two
- B. Jesus' resurrection
1. The tomb is empty
 2. Matthew 28:11–15 (ESV); ¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.
 3. Why did the Roman guards go to the Hebrew leaders?
 - a) Remember, there was another earthquake as the angel rolled the stone away from the entrance to the tomb (Matthew 28:2)
 - b) USAF Security Forces General orders
 - (1) I will take charge of my post and protect personnel and property for which I am responsible until properly relieved
 - (2) I will report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce and contact my superior in any case not covered by instructions
 - (3) I will sound the alarm in case of disorder or emergency
 - c) A Roman guard took the place of any prisoner that escaped their custody — Acts 12:19 confirms the idea that they would have faced death
 - d) I understand why they went to the Hebrew leaders instead of their centurion
 - e) The movie *Risen* is what I imagine happened in the Roman army
 4. Matthew points out (and correctly so) that the Romans said the body was taken by Jesus' disciples
 5. "In Acts 12:4 Herod dispatches "four squads of four soldiers each" to guard one man, Peter. If it was perceived that sixteen men were needed to watch just one of the disciples one can only guess how many they thought were necessary to guard against a minimum of eleven. If pressed, I personally suspect that thirty to fifty guards were present but even if there were only sixteen (per the Acts 12:4 model) it is virtually impossible to believe, seriously, that they all fell asleep and remained so as a bunch of disciples were slinking about, clawing at a honking big tombstone, and then extracting the body. We are talking about Roman soldiers here, after all." ¹
- C. Jesus' appearances
1. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (ESV); ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
 2. That is a lot of people to be witness to His resurrection
 3. Remember, Jesus even bore the marks of death in His resurrection body
 4. John 20:24–28 (ESV); ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them

¹ Horvath, Anthony. "How Many Guards at Jesus' Tomb?" SntJohnny.com, 4 Feb. 2014, sntjohnny.com/front/how-many-guards-at-the-tomb-of-jesus/485.html.

and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

5. The evidence is overwhelming — even for someone like me who is very logical

IV. Know Not

- A. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"
- B. We have been blessed with the knowledge of Jesus, the Christ
- C. We can no longer claim ignorance — but we must act on this knowledge
- D. What will you do?