

First Friday, Then Sunday, And Finally Monday

(Matthew 26-28)

- Introduction:
1. People are often plagued with “short-sightedness as well as short memories.”
 - a. Sometimes we can’t see beyond our problems and lose hope.
 - b. Sometimes we forget past events that give us hope.
 2. I think the same can be true of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
 3. There is more to this event than which took place on Friday.
 4. Ills. Battle of Waterloo. To carry the news of the Battle of Waterloo to England, a sailing ship signaled to a man on shore, who relayed the word to another on a hill, and so on across Britain. The first word, “Wellington,” was signaled. The next word was “defeated.” Then a fog closed in, and the message halted. Across England people wept over the message. “Wellington defeated.” Then the fog lifted. The communication continued with two additional words: “the enemy.” Englishmen celebrated the victory.

I. First, It Was Friday

- A. **It was Friday** when Jesus prayed in Gethsemane (Mt. 26:30-46).
- B. **It was Friday** when Jesus was betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver.
- C. **It was Friday** when Jewish officials conspired to arrest Jesus under the cover of darkness (Mt. 26:47-56).
- D. **It was Friday** when Jesus was abandoned by his disciples (Mt. 26:47-56).
- E. **It was Friday** when Jesus was examined by Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate (John 18:12-14, 19-23; Mt. 26:57-27:26).
- F. **It was Friday** when Peter denied Jesus (Mt. 26:58, 69-75).
- G. **It was Friday** when the multitudes cried out for the release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus (Mt. 27:15-26).
- H. **It was Friday** when the soldiers mocked and beat Jesus, weaving a crown of thorns, and placing upon him a purple robe (Mt. 27:27-30).
- I. **It was Friday** when Jesus was led away to be crucified (Mt. 27:31).
- J. **It was Friday** when Jesus was stripped of his clothing, crucified, mocked and spat upon by passers-by (Mt. 27:35-44).
- K. **It was Friday** when Jesus said, “It is finished,” and he died (John 19:30).
- L. **It was Friday** when they buried Jesus and sealed the tomb (Mt. 27:61-66).

II. Then Sunday Arrived

- A. Jesus raised up from death and the tomb (Mt. 28:1-6).
- B. Imagine the excitement! (John 20:1-8; 20).

III. Finally Monday Arrived

- A. 2000 years have passed since Jesus resurrected and ascended (Acts 1:11).
- B. Time has a way of stealing the excitement and joy and turning things into the ordinary and mundane.
- C. We must keep our focus, renew our excitement, and realize our indebtedness (Titus 2:11-12).

- Conclusion:
1. Let us never forget what happened on Sunday.
 2. And let us allow the events that took place on Sunday to shape our Monday.