

THE TOMB OF VICTORY

John 19.31-42 // October 31, 2021

HISTORICAL CONFIDENCE

Though we can't know for absolute certain where the location of the crucifixion and burial place of Jesus is, the historical evidence and findings give us much to be encouraged by, giving us not only a more vivid picture of the events in the first century, but also greater confidence in the historicity of the life and death of Jesus.

- In 135 A.D., Roman Emperor Hadrian had a Temple of Aphrodite purposefully built upon the location that local Christians would worship at as the location of the crucifixion and resurrection. This location would have been told to these Christians by their parents or grandparents, who could have been eyewitnesses or contemporaries to eyewitnesses.
- In 325 A.D., Roman Emperor Constantine, who had become a Christian 10 years prior, sent his mother, Helena, as well as other biblical scholars, including the great Eusebius, to investigate Israel.
- That delegation was pointed to the Temple of Aphrodite as the original location of the cross and resurrection. Excavations revealed a rock quarry with 1st century tombs hewn into the walls of the quarry, as well as an outcropping of unquarried rock. Wooden crosses were also reportedly found in the vicinity, as well as the remains of an ancient garden.

PUBLIC CONFESSION

Luke 23.50-56 // Mark 15.43

Both Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were part of the Sanhedrin, who were like the Supreme Court of the Pharisees. Both men had been intrigued by and following Christ, yet from some sort of distance or caution.

Here, however, they are both "outing" themselves as true followers of Jesus. Their taking of His body and giving Him a burial of honor in a newly hewn tomb, packed with 75 pounds of spices, was an affront to the Sanhedrin who had just ordered Christ to be killed.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

A thief, a mother, a friend, a demonized woman, and two rich religious leaders, all standing at the foot of the cross, and all having received forgiveness and acceptance by God. The cross can save anybody.

John 6.37-40 // Luke 9.23-26 // 2 Corinthians 2.14-17 // Isaiah 53.10, 11

**When Christ calls a man,
he bids him to come and die.**

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

1 Timothy 6:6-7

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **John 19.31-42**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Consider the things most valuable to you. And consider your every day life, such as friendships, school, work, and how you spend time and money. Do these look more like Joseph and Nicodemus, sacrificing all of it for the sake of Christ? Or do some of those things look more like the disciples who are in hiding? What part of the Gospel in this story helps you gain confidence and ability to take up your cross in those areas and follow after Jesus?

Your Life Mission

True life starts with our death. Joseph and Nicodemus were taking the body of Christ to the tomb, but truthfully, they were walking to their own tomb, and from there were free to be true followers of Jesus. What relationships in your life would you like prayer for, to be the person in their life to bring the Good News of Jesus and be bold for His glory and for their joy?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
 - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
 - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

