



Week of April 15, 2019: Saturday – A Day of Silence and Rest

Low in the grave He lay—
Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day—
Jesus my Lord!

Christ Arose! (Low in the Grave He Lay) by Robert Lowry

Discussion Questions Set #1

“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:30)

The disciples “rested on the Sabbath in obedience with the commandment” (Luke 23:56).

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day.” (Exodus 20:8-11)

Let’s play a “what if” game together: what if on that ancient Saturday, Jesus rested from His salvific toil, enjoying the presence of God the Father and the improbable victory now won? What if, in obedience to the commandment, Jesus rested in paradise on that ancient Saturday. What if Jesus followed the pattern of creation and “rested from all His work”? What if this day of rest was like a period on a sentence, a conclusion to a chapter in human history, the end of a very specific era of created life?

1. Reflect on the “what-ifs”. What difference might it make if we saw this as Christ’s silent Saturday activity, rather than the “He descended into hell” line of the Apostles’ Creed?
2. Is Sheol (Hades, hell) any less defeated if Christ does not descend there?
3. How might Christ’s work on the cross be different if His Saturday were full of Sheol defeating, gate kicking, and imprisoned soul preaching?
4. How might Christ’s “it is finished” of Good Friday be cheapened by a full Saturday itinerary?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7).

“What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.” (Job 3:25-26)

As horrifically timely as this might be, on Easter Sunday, ISIS claimed responsibility for attacks at churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, claiming the lives of 321 people, most of whom gathered to celebrate the Risen Christ. This underlines the tension between peace and violence in our world; the tension between the Prince of Peace and the violent dark prince of this world (John 12:31).

1. What difference does it make to you that it was the words of John 14:27 and not Job 3:25-26 that were on the lips of Christ on that silent Saturday?
2. How does Christ’s experience of peace on that silent Saturday change your view of our experience of peace in this present world of turmoil?
3. What might a Saturday of peace for Christ tell us about the power of our enemy?



Discussion Questions Set #3

A Good Friday world

- a place where “the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it” (John 1:5).
- a world where “the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

A Silent Saturday world

- “This world in its present form is passing away.” (1 Corinthians 7:31)
- The hope of a place where “there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (Revelation 21:4)

1. Many in our world live in a Good Friday world, full of pain and turmoil. How can we help them see that this world is passing and a new world of hope is coming?
2. Think of your own experience. Are you more familiar with a Good Friday world or a Silent Saturday world? Why do you think this is the case?
3. Some might suggest that living in a Silent Saturday world is a form of escapism, a neglect of the world as is. How might you respond to this criticism?