



# Saturday

*“Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, . . .” (Matthew 27:62a).*

Following his account of Jesus’ crucifixion, Matthew said, “Now on *the next day, the day after the preparation . . .*” (Matthew 27:62a; emphasis added).

What was this historic Saturday like for them? On Friday, their Messiah had moaned and writhed in pain as the agonies of the crucifixion swept over Him. The day had left them numbed and confused.

The only reference to what happened on Saturday is a brief description of the Jews making the request for a guard to be placed beside the entrance to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. Nothing is said in the Gospels about what the disciples did on Saturday. Nevertheless, with our imaginations and with the implications of the facts that are given in the divine text, we can piece together what this unusual seventh day was like.

For some disciples, it was *a Saturday of mourning over unrealized dreams*. The death of Jesus had shocked them, and they were in a daze of doubt and questions. Jesus had told them that He would rise from the dead on the third day (Matthew 16:21). They had heard His prophecy, but that prophecy had not become part of their belief system. Now, having witnessed the Savior’s execution, they were wondering what was happening to their world.

For others, it was *a Saturday of business as usual*. The guards who were placed by the tomb were just doing their duty as they had always done. They were soldiers fulfilling a charge, with no idea that they were watching the entrance to the tomb of the Son of God, who had

died for their sins. They had no notion that they were part of the world’s greatest life-changing event, which would be made known the next day. They saw no farther than the command that they had been given. Saturday, for, them was just an ordinary day.

For still others, it was *a Saturday filled with glorious anticipation*. Surely some of the disciples were taking the prediction of Jesus seriously. They remembered what He had said. If they understood it, then they knew that Saturday was “the day before.” Jesus had said that three days after His death He would rise again. Saturday was “the day before” death itself would die.

This brief recounting of what the disciples did on Saturday raises a question for us: What is Saturday to us? You see, life to us in this world is similar to life on that Saturday long ago.

The psalms were expressions of life and worship to the Israelites on their “Saturday,” as they waited for the coming of the Messiah. These psalms were lived during times of difficulties, questions, and struggles. Their challenge was to walk with God on “the day before” the Lord’s advent.

In another sense, today for us is “Saturday,” “the day before.” We are waiting for the return of Jesus. We have heard the promises from our Savior. He has said that He is coming again, and we hold that promise in our hearts.

How are we living on our “Saturday”? Are we living it as a day of unrealized dreams, as a day of business as usual, or as the day before the climax of history? The Scriptures remind us that we must walk with God while we wait

for the big day. Let us live as if Jesus died yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming back tonight.

Eddie Cloer

❖-❖-❖-❖-❖

*Why are you in despair, O my soul?  
And why are you disturbed within me?  
Hope in God . . . (Psalm 43:5).*