

Reading:- Mark Chapter 15 and 16

After Jesus had entered into Jerusalem, during his final week of his life, he spent his days in Jerusalem talking to the people, and his evenings out at Bethany in the home of his much loved friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Each night Martha, Mary and Lazarus were relieved when they would see their Master safely back from the city as they knew that he was in danger. During this week the priests increased their hatred for Jesus and made their plans to kill Jesus.

There were many incidents that they had tried to plot against Jesus:

There was one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, he tried to sell Jesus into the hands of his enemies and so he bargained with them.

In an upper room in Jerusalem for the Passover feast which Jesus was to keep with his disciples for the last time. They had a man carrying a waterpot, thus keeping the whereabouts of the feast a secret from those who were seeking to arrest him.

Jesus also washed his disciples' feet before the feast, this was a custom in those days.

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples slipped out into the darkness of the night to betray his Lord. While Jesus' disciples slept because they were very tired, Jesus went to the garden and prayed to his Father in heaven.

Then the soldiers came and led Jesus away and they questioned him in order to make him say something for which they could put him to death. When he claimed to be the Son of God they said this was a wicked thing to claim and he must die. We know he was the Son of God, but the rulers of those days refused to believe it and so they led Jesus to the Roman ruler in Jerusalem, Pilate, early next morning and got his consent to have Jesus put to death. The people outside Pilate's place were crying out "Crucify him". And so Jesus was led away and, with a thief on either side, hanged on a cross to die. His mother, and his disciple John and some of the womenfolk who loved him stood by to see him die, but his other disciples had fled away in fear.

And so Jesus died, and a rich man, Joseph of Arimathaea, who had listened to Jesus many times and secretly followed him, went and begged his body which he took and laid in his own new tomb in a garden. Jesus was at peace at last, sleeping in the cool of the tomb.

Jesus was a perfect man who had lived a perfect life and that, therefore, his Father in heaven did not allow him to remain in the tomb, but raised him on the third day. His friends need never fear death, because we too can be raised when Jesus comes, and death is only a sleep, meantime, waiting for that day.

Point to remember:- Although wicked men took and killed Jesus, yet, because of his perfect life and obedience, God raised him from the dead. We too can be raised if we are obedient.