



# What part of “After the Third Day” don’t you understand?

## Introduction:

It’s like a calf staring at a new gate. Have you ever heard that phrase?

You can be looking at something “out of place” that does not fit into your idea of what “should be there” so your mind and your eyes just don’t match up in the meaning of it all.

It’s like when you come home and your mom has rearranged the furniture in your room and cleaned out your toy box and closet FOR YOU. You just can’t make sense of it all. Where is everything? It’s not where you EXPECTED it to be.

It’s like the first time you try to tie your own shoelaces; it doesn’t make good sense.

You are just trying to make sense of it all. This is what the people of Jesus’ earthly days faced when they heard Him speak. They were trying to make sense of it all.

He said things and did things they did not EXPECT Him to say or do. They had already imagined what Jesus, the Messiah, would be like and what he would do when he came. But Jesus did not act like they had expected the Messiah to act. They had not been reading the Word of God clearly. They had been making up what they THOUGHT it should say.

It’s a lot like when you “hear what you want to hear” instead of what you heard.

*Revelation 13:8b “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”*

Jesus, who is God the Son, along with God the Father had our salvation planned from the beginning of time. **Simply put, Jesus made a way for you and me to be able to get to Heaven [if we want to take it] before we were ever born.**

Remember the story of the Beginning with Adam and Eve in Genesis. Adam and Eve sinned. God killed an animal to make a covering for them. Blood was shed. This was a picture of God’s plan.

Then Noah sacrificed animals after the flood. Abraham sacrificed; then Moses sacrificed. All through the Old Testament you see the blood sacrifices.

However the animal sacrifices were only a picture. They lacked two important ingredients:

1. The animals were not perfect.
2. The animals could not raise themselves from the dead.

These two points distinguish Christianity from other religions. Other religions and even idol worshippers would sometimes offer blood sacrifices, **but they never had a sacrifice get back up and instruct the worshipper what to do next. Jesus did!**

## **He told His Disciples!**

All through Jesus' ministry on earth He prepared His followers and disciples for what was about to happen concerning His death and resurrection [*His coming back to life after being killed.*]

He repeatedly told them that He would die; and that after three days He would rise from the dead. Jesus was very careful concerning teaching about His resurrection.

*Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

*Matthew 16:21 ..... be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

*Matthew 17:23 ...they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. ...*

*Matthew 20:19 .... and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.*

*Matthew 26:32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.*

**So, what part of the upcoming crucifixion [death on the cross], burial [in the tomb], rising from the dead, and I will meet you in Galilee, did they not understand?**

## **He told the Crowds!**

As Jesus taught in the temple and in open air meetings, he told the crowds that he would die and then rise again.

*Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.*

*Mark 14:58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.*

**They thought he had been talking about the great temple building they had built in Jerusalem. All along they did not "get it" that Jesus was talking about himself.**

People have the same problem today. They do not "hear" or "understand" the message clearly. They "make it what they THINK it should be" instead of what He says. There are so many different religions, and divisions in what people believe because they are not "listening" to the Holy Spirit of God. They are not reading the Word of God and trying to see what He is saying; instead they are trying to justify some old tradition or superstition or cultural misunderstanding of God.

He told the Crowds, but they didn't understand. He has left His Word for us today; along with the Holy Spirit to lead and guide, but the Crowds still don't "get it."

## **He told the Religious Pharisees!**

Even the religious leaders, the Pharisees, knew about His teaching concerning His death and resurrection.

If these Pharisees had studied their Bible as much as they did their book of rules that they had created themselves; they would have seen how that everything foretold in the Old Testament was coming to pass right before their eyes.

*Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.*

## **In Summation:**

**Even the most dedicated followers had trouble understanding and believing what Jesus taught.**

They had seen Jesus, the miracle worker, heal the sick and even raise Lazarus from the dead.

But if Jesus himself were dead, who would raise him up? How can a dead man do ANYTHING?

**The key is that Jesus was more than "a man". He was God in the flesh, and killing His fleshly body did not have the same effect as with other people. It is impossible to kill God!**

That is why angels were sent to the tomb. They reminded the people that came to the tomb of what Jesus said. They were also sent **to roll the stone away so they could see for themselves that Jesus was not in the tomb.**

*Luke 24:2-7 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.*

## **He told You!**

Jesus not only told his disciples, the crowd, and the Pharisees; He also told YOU that he is no longer in the tomb.

Jesus' ministry was not just for the three short years he taught and preached, but the resurrection, that is, his coming back to life, following the three days in the tomb lets us know that His ministry began before the world was formed and will continue for all eternity.

**...and be raised again the third day.**

*Matthew 16:21*

