

**John 20:1-13 (NKJV)**

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,

7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

43-19-01-Where Have You Laid Him?

Easter, priorities, crucifixion, fear, testimony, cornerstone

John 19:38-42; 20:1-13 (NKJV)

Where Jesus is laid destinies are made.

**INTRODUCTION: (Text as the Scripture Reading)**

–The Bible tells how people laid Jesus in certain places for various reasons. The first part of our **text** tells one of those incidents. In the next portion of the **text**, Mary Magdalene ran from the empty tomb crying, “*We do not know where they have laid Him.*” The **title personalizes it, as does our answer: HOM.idea**. Before getting into these passages, let’s look at a couple of other places where Jesus was laid by people.

**I. His Mother Mary Laid Him in a Manger**

A. I like “*The Battle Hymn of the Republic*,” but Jesus was *not* born “in the beauty of the lilies” but in a foul-smelling stable!

B. *Why did this happen?* There’s both a human and a divine reason:

1. There was “no room in the inn.” [In his poem “**Said the Innkeeper**,” Myles Connolly depicts an innkeeper with priorities: “I saw the poorness of the pair / And put them out. / And I did well. / Two merchants took the great room overhead. / It is my principle: I buy and sell / And give my pity to the dead.... // What could I say? / A man must make his living while he may.”]
2. But God has a reason— 1 Cor 1:27-29, But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. (*Proud priorities must bow before God’s matchless humility in coming to serve and not to be served....*)

**TRANS: Where Jesus is laid destinies are made!** Mary lay the sweet Christ-Child at her breast to nurse. The innkeeper had other priorities, letting Him lay in a filthy stable. *How about us?* Do we sometimes let our worldly concerns push Christ aside, into the back row, out of sight?

**II. His Enemies Laid Him on a Cross— John 19:18**, ...they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

A. Jesus, already so weak from bleeding, was easily pushed down backwards, laid upon the cross and nailed there.

B. Stripped of His clothing, He was further shamed by being placed

between two thieves— Isa 53:12b, ...he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (He'd *chosen to identify with sinners*, He *chose to pour out His life*; He completed His association with those He came to save by choosing to die with sinners!)

- C. Who laid Jesus on the cross? Pilate? the Jews? us? No! (Hear 1 Cor 2:7-8, ...we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, **they** would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**TRANS:** Satan's dark hosts tried defeating God's Son. But they failed to realize they were bringing the end of Satan's dominion. Our destiny of freedom was made when they laid Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

### III. His Fearful Friends Laid Him in a Tomb

- A. Joseph & Nicodemus, secret disciples, honored Jesus when danger was over, only when their Messianic hopes seemed to be gone.
- B. Fear can get the best of our loyalty to Christ. (We might be afraid to let others know that *Jesus is Lord*, or we might fear to hear the words, "*You're not one of those serious believers, are you?*")

**TRANS:** We hear nothing more of the 2 secret fearful believers who laid Jesus in a dark tomb. He'd said in Mat 5:16, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Jesus wants to be laid openly before the world in our words and in our deeds.

**IV. His Father Laid Him in Zion— Isa 28:16.** So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

- A. Human destiny depends on where the Father has laid His Son. (He laid Him as the foundation, the "cornerstone" of our future— [Peter, under arrest, explained in] Acts 4:9-12, "If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He [Jesus] is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.")
- B. To our eternal loss or eternal gain, we trip over this "cornerstone" or

we trust in Christ and make Him the foundation on Whom we build our lives— 1 Pet 2:4-8. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message....

### CONCLUSION:

—**Where Jesus is laid destinies are made.** Some still lay Him aside ("too busy, can't be bothered, other priorities"). Some lay Him out of the way ("*His claims are too extreme, His teachings too far-reaching, His Person too imposing.*" They must explain Him away: He was just a man, a myth, a mistake in history). Some lay Him in the dark tomb of their own fears (fears of what others will think). **But God lays Him as the Cornerstone of Zion, the foundation of the City of God, the hope of our eternal salvation.**

—Mary Magdalene's worry early on Easter morning becomes a personal question for us all: Where have you laid Him? Is He our center, our foundation, our supreme Lord? *Where in our lives have we laid Jesus?*

### **John 19:38-42 (NKJV)**

38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.

39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.