

The Burial of Jesus

19:41-42 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 because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

The Preparation

→ Read John 19: 31-37

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.

List the events that happened in this passage in order.

What day of the week was Jesus crucified? What is the “day of Preparation”?

Which "high Sabbath" was it? (John 13:1) Talk about the importance of it being that particular High Sabbath.

Why did the Jews ask Pilate to break the legs of the ones being crucified? (refer to Deuteronomy 12:22-23)
Thinking back to last week, and how crucifixion is done, what would breaking the legs of the one on the cross do?

Who is the one who witnessed what happened, and why is he saying his testimony is true?

According to this passage, why did these things take place?

What flows from Jesus' body when he is pierced? What does this flow of fluid from Jesus' side confirm about Jesus' condition? Why is this important?

Jesus Is Buried

→ Read John 19:38

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was 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 away his body.

→ Read Matthew 27:57-6

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

→ Read Luke 23:50

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.

→ Read Mark 15:42

42 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Circle the words that describe Joseph of Arimathea in these four Gospel accounts of him.

In these passages, what did he do that was risky for him? Why was it risky?

→ Read John 19:39

Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight

Who is Nicodemus? Look up John 3:3 -18 and read.

What important truths did Jesus share with Nicodemus in John 3 1-18?

John is the only writer of the Gospel that included Nicodemus' part in the burial. Now that you've read John 3:1-18, talk about why this might be.

Why were these 2 men "secret" disciples?

→ Read John 19:40 - 42

So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 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 because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

→ Read Mark 15: 42-47

And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

→ Read Matthew 27:59-61

59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

→ Read Luke 23:53-56

Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

How did the two men prepare Jesus for burial?

Besides Joseph and Nicodemus- who else is mentioned in these accounts?

Where did they lay Him? Who did the tomb belong to?

What did Joseph do in the gospel of Matthew and Mark that was not mentioned in the other ones? Why would this detail be important in the Resurrection?

Notes:

Preparation Day:

Broken Legs:

Water and Blood:

Loving Care:

The Tomb:

Discussion Questions:

Where do you see God working in this passage?

Can someone be a "secret disciple"? Why or why not?

What has it cost you, or have you sacrificed, to follow Christ?

How can you apply the truths in this passage to your life?

*In response to this study, take a few minutes to pray at your table.

*If you have any questions about salvation, or this passage, please feel free to stay and talk with your table leader.

Next Week - John 20:1-18