

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for October 2, 1988**

**The Burial of Jesus**  
**Part 1**  
**Matthew 27:57-66**  
**Dale Whitehead**

Three groups at the burial of Jesus:

Joseph of Arimathea (the first group, a group of one.)

Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple for fear of the Jews (**John 19:38**) and was a prominent member of the Sanhedrin (**Mark 15:43**). If he were to openly declare himself a disciple of Jesus he would have lost his position of influence.

The corpse of criminals would be thrown into Gehenna, the garbage dump, in order for Rome to produce a more dramatic effect when they executed. However, Joseph could not bear Jesus' body being tossed into the dump and therefore he went public with his allegiance to Christ by requesting Jesus' body for burial.

Joseph needed help to carry the body and his help came not from the disciples but from Nicodemus (**John 19:39**) who was also a member of the Jewish ruling body. God used two members of the Sanhedrin to fulfill **Isaiah 53:9** as they placed Jesus into Joseph's tomb (**Matthew 27:60**).

Matthew stresses that Joseph is a rich man by its emphatic position in Greek. Only a rich man such as Joseph could afford the labor required to hew a tomb out of rock.

**Verse 57**, and when it was evening (between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Friday). **John 19:31**, the day of preparation (this is the day before the Sabbath for on the Sabbath-Saturday- there could be no work). **Deuteronomy 21:22-23**, the corpse of one put to death on the cross should not hang over night. The Jews request that death be hurried by breaking the legs of the men being crucified. This was a common method to hurry death at crucifixion.

**John 19**, the legs of the thieves are broken but the soldiers, seeing that Jesus is already dead, do not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side and blood and water came out. Why did the soldier pierce Christ? He wanted to make sure that Christ was dead, but he had to do it to fulfill **Zechariah 12:10**.

Blood and water came out of the wound. Why? Why is this mentioned? This is to testify to us that Jesus is in fact dead, physical evidence that Jesus is dead.

**Isaiah 53:9**, assigned a grave with the wicked, but buried with the rich.

**John 19:39**, Nicodemus also comes with 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes.

People must know that we are followers of Jesus and not be secret like Joseph. May we come out of the shadows and become bold for Jesus wherever we go.