Burial of Jesus’ Body

Matthew 27:57-61

Mark 15:42-47

Luke 23:50-56

John 19:38-42
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Texts:

Matthew 27:57-61,

57. When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple:  
58. He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.  
59. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,  
60. And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.  
61. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulcher.

Mark 15:42-47,

42. And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,  
43. Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counselor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.  
44. And Pilate marveled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.  
45. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.  
46. And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulcher which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulcher.  
47. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.
Luke 23:50-56,

50. And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counselor; and he was a good man, and a just:
51. (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.
52. This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.
53. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.
54. And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on.
55. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how his body was laid.
56. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.

John 19:38-42,

38. And after this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.
39. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.
40. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner 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 sepulcher, wherein was never man yet laid.
42. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews’ preparation day; for the sepulcher was nigh at hand.
Commentary:

Matthew 27:57, When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple:

I. At evening Joseph of Arimathea, a town in the Judean hills northwest of Jerusalem, a rich man, a member of the Sanhedrin, and a disciple of Christ came onto the scene.

A. Isaiah 53:9, He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

B. John 19:38-42, Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

C. Mark 15:43, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body.

D. Luke 23:50, 51, Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.
II. In this hour of crisis, some forsook Christ and fled while others stepped forward to do the will of the Father.

**Matthew 27:58**, He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

I. Joseph asked Pilate for the body of Christ and it was released to him for burial.

II. Joseph provided the tomb, obtained permission to remove Christ’s body from the cross, and prepared it for burial.

**Matthew 27:59, 60**, And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.

I. Joseph took the body, wrapped the body in clean linen cloths, laid the body in his own newly hewn stone tomb and rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed.

II. Joseph must have expected that his gift of the tomb was a permanent contribution.

   A. What Joseph gave to Jesus he received back “good as new” three days later!

   B. What we give to Jesus we receive back in heaven “with interest!”

**Matthew 27:61**, And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulcher.
I. At the burial of Jesus Mary Magdalene and Mary who was the wife of Clopas and the mother of James and Joses were close by the sepulcher watching all that happened.

II. Evidently the last to leave the grave site were these women!

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me: For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above, To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see; For ‘twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me.

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then He’ll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory for ever I’ll share.

So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down: I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

Mark 15:42, 43, And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counselor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.
I. At dusk on the day before the Sabbath, preparations were made for the burial of Jesus’ body.

II. Joseph of Arimethea, (a city located in the Judean Hills northwest of Jerusalem), a respected member of the Sanhedrin; that is, council, who was looking for the Kingdom of God, went courageously/boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

III. God raised up a Joseph . . .

   A. to save the Israelites from famine.

   B. to save the infant Jesus from death at the hand of Herod.

   C. to save the body of Jesus from being buried along with the robbers in a potter’s field.

Mark 15:44, And Pilate marveled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

I. Pilate marveled that Jesus was so soon dead . . . within six hours of his being nailed to the cross.

II. Crucifixion was characterized by prolonged agony and suffering as a rule.

III. Pilate called for the Centurion, who had earlier confessed that Jesus was the Son of God, and inquired of him if Jesus were indeed dead.

IV. A Roman Centurion would well know when a man was dead!

Mark 15:45, And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.
I. Pilate made sure that it was a corpse that he released to Joseph of Arimathaea.

II. Jesus laid down his life! It was not taken from him.

Mark 15:46, And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulcher which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulcher.

I. Joseph . . .

A. bought a linen cloth.

B. took the body of Christ down from the cross where it had been for over six hours.

C. wrapped Jesus’ body in the burial (linen) cloth.

D. laid him in a tomb hewn out of a rock.

E. rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mark 15:47, And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

I. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses beheld the burial.

II. It is amazing that Mary Magdalene was listed here before Mary the mother of Jesus. Why was this?

III. It was also to Mary Magdalene that Jesus first appeared in the resurrected state rather than to Mary his mother.
The Burial of Jesus

I. Joseph was a counselor, a good and righteous man.

A. All four (4) gospels record the fact that Joseph donated the tomb in which Jesus was buried.

B. Joseph was of Arimathaea/Ramah, the birthplace of Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19), a city in the Judean hills NW of Jerusalem. The exact location of Arimathaea is not now known.

C. Joseph was a councillor; that is, a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, but he had not voted, given his consent for the death of Jesus.

D. Joseph was looking for the kingdom of God.

II. With courage he went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

A. Having been granted custody of the body of Jesus, Joseph took the body of Jesus down from the cross, wrapped it in linen cloth and laid the body of Jesus in a tomb that was hewn in stone.

1. This tomb had never before been used.

2. This was the day of the Preparation for the Sabbath which was fast approaching.

B. Women, ever faithful, who had come with Jesus from Galilee, followed the body of Jesus from the cross to the burial site.

1. Having determined the location of the tomb in which Jesus was interred, the women left, prepared spices and ointment, then returned early on Sunday morning intending to lovingly anoint our Lord’s body.
2. But, by that time, he was no longer there!
Burial of Jesus’ Body

Questions

1. At ___________ _______ ________ of ______________, a town in the ______________ _______ _______ of ______________, a member of the ______________, and a ______________ of ______________ came on the scene.

2. ______________ went to ______________ and ______________ the ______________ of _______________. Then ______________ commanded the ______________ to be delivered.

3. When ______________ had taken the _______________, he wrapped it in a _______________ ______________ _____________________ _______________, and laid it in his _______________ _______________ _______________ which he had hewn out in the _______________, and _______________ a great _______________ to the _______________ of the _______________, and _______________.

4. _______________ sat over against the _______________ and the other _______________ sat over against the _______________ and witnessed the burial. The other Mary was the mother of _______________.

5. _______________ marveled that _______________ were already _______________; and calling for the _______________ he asked whether he had been any while _______________. When _______________ knew it of the _______________, he gave the _______________ to _______________.

6. _______________ bought _______________ _______________, took his down from the _______________, wrapped him in the _______________, and laid him in a _______________ which was
hewn out of a ____________, and ____________ a
______________ unto the door of the ____________.

7. Joseph was a _________________ and _________________ man
who looked for the ________________ of ________________.