

Title: The Burial of Jesus

Text: John 19:38-42

() I would like to look at the burial of Jesus in verses 38-42.
And I just want to share four things with you.

(1) Number one, the permission of Pilate. Vs 38 He gave permission to Joseph of Arimathea. And you know, that is just a little strange. WHY DIDN'T THE ROMANS TAKE CARE OF THE BURIAL? THAT WAS THE CUSTOM. ESPECIALLY WITH CRIMINALS.

I want to tell you that there is something here between the lines. And I know this will bless you as you think of Joseph of Arimathea.

Do you know what they did with men who were crucified? Do you know what they did? They were not allowed to be buried, dear friends. Because the O.T. law said that everyone who was crucified was ~~crused~~ crused. "Crused is everyone who hangs on a tree."

Do you know what they did with them? They threw their bodies on the dung heap in the valley of Gehenna. The word "Gehenna" is the word Jesus used in the N.T. for Hell itself.

They threw the bodies of those who had been crucified by the Romans on that dung heap. And they never gave them the honor of a burial.

And I thought how wonderful is the love and courage of Joseph of ~~Ar~~ Arimathea.

As he went to that pagan Roman governor, Pilate, who had given the orders for Jesus to be crucified. And he came and said: "I want to bury Jesus."

Some have ask, "Why did Pilate let him do it?"

Well, from a human point of view, and I don't know this. But knowing a little about Roman history relating to Pilate, I believe Joseph of Arimathea, being a very wealthy man, could have easily paid off Pilate for the privilege of burying Jesus.

But it really thrilled me in realizing that Joseph would not let those Romans take that body of Jesus and cast it out on the dung heap.

And Vs 39 says that Nicodemus joined him. One who was a ruler of Jews. A member of the Sanhedrin.

But, I also, believe that God had worked all this out. So that at that moment these two Jewish leaders were able to persuade Pilate to give them the body of Jesus.

(2) Secondly, notice the carefully preparation of the body Verses 39-40
They brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes. They had to do this very quickly. Jesus died at 3:00 in the afternoon. And they had until sundown to get the body off the cross...prepare it for burial...and place the body in the tomb. They took the body and wiped in linen clothe and spices as was the custom of the Jews.

One little note at this point. When Jesus arose from the dead all those lineons were neatly folded.

That is a simple part of the miracle story. But it is interesting. Acturally the wonder of the resurrection is that Jesus came back from the dead. But a simple little part of the story., is how in the world did he get out of those linen clothes. without ripping them apart. It was impossible. Unless you are the son of God. He just slip throggh that thing....BANG... He is out. Just like he went through the door. You are talking one ~~mo~~ moment...and BANG...There is Jesus.

Where did he come from?....

The thing that excites me is that I am going to have a glorified body like Jesus. I am going to do that too.

You think that I am thin down, wait until then! (HA)

Isn't it going to be great when we get a resurrected body? Man Oh Man.. You know, you got a little pain here or there. The old body seems to ache a little...Man! you have to rejoice over that.

These old bodies get worn out and tired. But in a moment of time they are going to be changed.

(3) Third, the place where the tomb was located. We are told that it was in a garden. The garden had a new tomb. And no one had yet been laid in that tomb. And we are told that this new tomb, Vs 41, was near at hand. It was right close to where he was crucified. And that is a beautiful thing. It would be great if we good all, right now, go visit the garden tomb. Wouldn't it be great to have communion there right now?

A tomb prepared for Joseph of Arimathea. Yet it held the body of Jesus. That little phrase in Vs 41 hid me. "It says, "in which no one had yet been laid." I think that phrase is there for a reason. It means that one one had ever been buried in that tomb. Now, why is that important? Because God knew what was going to be developed in the future. You see, in this day and age, we have instruments that can tell by the decaying elements of our body whether a person had been buried there or not.

And in this tomb there is no evidence of any decaying body. Jesus in that tomb. Yet, he arose and no decay had set in....Fantastic.

(4) And fourth, all of this was done because it was the day of preparation. Vs 42....The day the Passover lamb was prepared. Jesus died and was buried on that day....in fulfillment in every way as our Passover Lamb....The lamb was killed and the sins of the people were placed on that lamb. Jesus is our lamb. All the sins of the world were placed on him when he died for us. For me...For you...And the Bible says that as many as receive him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.....

Close in prayer