

# **Christ's Burial**

Sermon Notes - 5-10-20 Drive-In Service

The time has come for an important event in the story of Jesus: the burial of Christ. It is an integral step in the message of the gospel for Paul writes in I Cor. 15:3-4: "3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" How important is the burial of Christ? **Does it really matter to us as believers?**

As we step back in review we have seen the very Creator who spoke creation into existence come to this earth. He was born of a virgin and as King of the Jews. He had come to this earth for the express purpose of dying for our sins. During His public ministry He demonstrated very clearly that He was the Son of God. Now He was dead. Christ had shed His blood and given His life willingly. He had been forsaken by His Father as He bore our sin. He submitted to the wrath and curse of God the Father. Now that He had died, He needed to be buried. He needed a tomb.

## **I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tomb (Matt. 27:57-62).**

### **A. The \_\_\_\_\_ who did the burial (Matt. 27:57-58).**

**Who was involved with Jesus' burial?** We know from Mark 15:43ff; Luke 23:50ff; and John 19:38ff that Joseph was a wealthy and prominent person (Mark 15:43). He was a member of the Sanhedrin (Luke 23:50) and a good and righteous person. But there was something else about Joseph that is mentioned in several of the texts: he was a secret believer of the Lord (John 19:38). He was waiting for the kingdom of God. He did not favor the actions of the religious rulers.

Joseph went to Pilate and courageously asked for the body of Jesus (Mark 15:43). At this point we learn that Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead since not that much time had passed. Pilate called for the centurion and asked him to verify that Jesus was indeed dead. Mark 15:45 is an important verse for here we have witness from the centurion that Christ was indeed dead.

This is one proof that Jesus actually died. The soldier admitted to it. Jesus didn't just swoon or pass out. No, Jesus fully and completely died.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ for sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Each of us deserves death for our sins.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ in the Garden pointed to an innocent life being taken to pay for our sin. While lambs were symbols of what was to come, only God's perfect Son could truly pay for our sin problem through His complete death. Therefore, our perfect Savior perfectly fulfilled God requirement of His perfect Law. II Cor. 5:21
- The \_\_\_\_\_ foretold of Christ's death (Isa. 53; John 1:29; Psalm 16:10). God could not allow our sin to go unpunished. Thankfully, Christ fully died to take that punishment on the cross. He was the only One who could do this payment.

### **B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the burial (Matt. 27:59-61).**

We find that Joseph and Nicodemus brought Jesus and laid Him in Joseph's *new* tomb. This word *new* (*kainos*) here means *not yet used, new in kind, freshly made*). This tomb had just been finished. The tomb had never been used by any other body, so it was pure and undefiled.

Prophecy was being fulfilled. The tomb was ready at the exact moment of need. Christ had fully died. Who could orchestrate all of this? God. Yes, God! Miraculous, prophetic, perfect timing, helped by a member of the Sanhedrin who had learned under the Lord Jesus Himself. Wow!

Again, stop and think about all that is happening here: Jesus had died. He needed to be removed from the cross before the High Sabbath, partly for the Jews sake and partly and maybe more importantly for the time needed to be in the grave (3 days and 3 nights). Joseph, a secret disciple, “just happened” to have a new tomb ready to go so Jesus’ body could be buried in it. Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin who had no right to Christ’s body, then went to Pilate and received permission to bury the body. Joseph becomes defiled in order to take the Lord’s body to his tomb. He was not allowed to eat of the Passover but he didn’t care for he had the Passover Lamb to be taken to His grave. No doubt Joseph risked everything when he went and did all of this.

Prophecy is \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_. God is \_\_\_\_\_!

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ at the burial (Matt. 27:61).

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ at the Tomb (Matt. 27:62-66).

The religious leaders called Jesus a *deceiver* meaning *fraud, causing someone to be mistaken or led astray*. They were calling Jesus’ claim a fraud, yet perhaps after all that they had witnessed they began to believe Jesus **could** rise from the dead. After all, they had certainly heard – and possibly even witnessed - Lazarus rising from the dead.

**Think about this a moment: The disciples in their state of mind come up with a plan like this?!**

These rulers were concerned that if the disciples pulled off this grand theft, they would perpetuate a story that would be so amazing that the people would believe that it actually happened. This then would make them look bad and the Lord look good. They would be the bad people.

The Roman guard not only sealed the tomb (presumably with the official Roman **seal** and with a cord and wax, which if tampered with, could be detected) but also continued to keep a **guard** at the scene. Their presence made stealing the body impossible.<sup>1</sup>

What did this do for the Resurrection? Now no one could steal the body. Not friends of Jesus or His enemies. Through Divine Providence the body of Jesus lay in the grave completely protected and ready to rise again.

### **CONCLUSION**

**Skeptics contend that Jesus did not fully and completely die on the cross. Our study of our text today shows very clearly that Jesus did die, His body was prepared for burial in the traditional way, it was entombed in a secure grave, and it was guarded carefully for 3 days and 3 nights, exactly as prophesied. We serve a promise-keeping God!**

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<sup>1</sup> Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). [Matthew](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 92). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.