

(1) How does the difference between capital punishment today and how it was practiced in the first century affect your understanding of what Jesus endured? Why was crucifixion regarded as the worst form of execution? What does the crucifixion tell you about the nature and purpose of the death of Jesus?

(2) Why is it important for us to affirm the actual burial of Jesus? What would the implications be if there was nothing said about it in the NT?

(3) The reality of the burial refutes the infamous “swoon” theory of Jesus’s crucifixion. Why is the “swoon” theory utterly implausible? Be specific.

(4) Put yourself in the place of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus and describe how you might have felt when you removed the body of Jesus from the cross.

(5) What practical lessons do we learn from the fact that it was Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, two Pharisees, who took responsibility for the burial of Jesus? What lessons do we learn from the fact that not one of his remaining eleven disciples was present to perform this task?