

John Lesson 57 Jesus Is Buried John 19: 38-42

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background:

Evening of the Day of Preparation: The Day of Preparation was the day the Passover Lamb was slaughtered. It was the Friday before the Sabbath of Passover. The Jews considered evening to be between 3PM and 6PM.

The bodies of criminals who were crucified were not to be left hanging overnight. It was forbidden by the law (Deuteronomy 21:22-23 "If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, (23) his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.)

The Romans usually threw the bodies of crucifixion victims into a common grave for criminals or left them out for the vultures or dogs.

The touching of a dead body rendered any Jew ceremonially unclean and anyone "unclean" was unable to participate in Passover.

All 4 gospel writers relate the story of Jesus' burial.

Read John 19: 38-42

1. What do you learn of Joseph of Arimathea from John 19:38, Matthew 27:57, Mark 15:42-43, and Luke 23:50-51?

2. What did he ask of Pilate and why did it take courage? John 19:38 Looking back in our study of John, what were the Jewish rulers capable of doing to those who opposed them or broke their rules?

3. Who took Jesus down from the cross? John 19:38, Mark 15:46

4. According to John 19:39 Who else helped Joseph prepare the body of Jesus for burial and what did He contribute?

Application: Both of these council members showed their love to Jesus and brought Him honor as they prepared His body for burial. How are you honoring Jesus in your life as a result of your love for Him?

5. According to Matthew 27:59-60 whose tomb was Jesus placed in? How was this a fulfillment of scripture? (Isaiah 53:9)

Joseph and Nicodemus hurried to get the body of Jesus into the tomb before the Sabbath. This meant that Jesus was in the tomb and buried on Friday. He remained there until Sunday morning. Thus Jesus was in the grave for part of Friday, all of Saturday and part of Sunday. The Jewish method of reckoning time was that any part of a day was regarded as a full day.

6. With the Jewish way of reckoning time in mind, how were Jesus own words in Matthew 12:40 fulfilled in His burial?

Application: God was faithful to fulfill what had been written and said about Jesus, even in His burial. As believers, God is faithful in our lives as well. How will you respond to His faithfulness in your life?