

Burial of Jesus

Gen. 15:15

- And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

- Throughout history, respect for the deceased has included proper burial or disposal of the body

I. Jesus' burial was a fulfillment of ⁴ prophecy

Is. 53:9

- And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

- Jesus enemies planned for his grave to be with the wicked
- Evidently they wanted the same ones who would break the legs to take the two thieves and Jesus away together

Jn. 19:31

- The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

- Normally the grave for those crucified was with the wicked – but Jesus was buried in the tomb of a rich man
- He was sinless and did not deserve a grave with the wicked

- While the Jews intended to bring reproach upon Jesus by disposing of his body like that of a shameful criminal – God provided for an honorable burial in the tomb of a rich man

- “...because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.”

II. Jesus' burial provided an opportunity¹¹ for expressions of love & devotion

1. Mary of Bethany

Mk. 14:8

- She hath done what she could:
she is come aforehand to anoint
my body to the burying.

Mk. 14:9

- Verily I say unto you,
Wheresoever this gospel shall be
preached throughout the whole
world, this also that she hath
done shall be spoken of for a
memorial of her.

2. Joseph of Arimathea

Mt. 27:57-60

- When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered....

- 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 sepulchre, and departed.

He was a good and just man

Lk. 23:50-51

- And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

A man of courage

Mk. 15:43

- Joseph of Arimathaea, and honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

3. Nicodemus

Jn. 19:38-42

- And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, 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....

- 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...

- 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. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid....

- There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

III. Jesus' burial provides helpful information in defending his resurrection

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- This was Joseph's own new tomb
- It was near the place of crucifixion

Jn. 19:41

- Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

Lk. 23:55

- And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

Mk. 15:47

- And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

Why is this important?

- Skeptics claim that the disciples went to the wrong tomb – found it empty – and began to teach that Jesus was resurrected

- How likely is it that Joseph or Nicodemus or the women who followed Jesus would forget where the tomb was?
- Jesus died, was buried and gloriously resurrected just as it is revealed in God's word