

Mark 15:42-47

The Burial of Christ

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The Importance of the Burial Account

The Gospels' focus on Joseph:
Matthew 27:57-61 = Joseph of Arimathea was **rich**
Luke 23:50-56 = Joseph was a **righteous man**
John 19:38-42 = Joseph was a **disciple**

Significance of Jesus' Burial:
1. Jesus really died!
2. People knew where He was buried!

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Joseph of Arimathea's Courage

Mark 15:42-43 When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, **43 Joseph of Arimathea** came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

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Joseph Is Granted Jesus' Body

Mark 15:44-45 Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. 45 And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

- ▶ *%Writing of the age of Tiberius, Tacitus remarks that 'people sentenced to death forfeited their property and were forbidden burial'+(Lane citing the Annals VI. 29).*

4

Joseph's Extravagant Act of Love

Mark 15:46 Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

- ▶ *%Only a few tombs with such rolling stones are known in Palestine, but all of them date from the period of Jesus+(Lane).*

5

The Eyewitnesses to Jesus' Burial

Mark 15:47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph **were looking on to see where He was laid.**

Mark 15:40-41 There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joseph, and Salome. 41 When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and there were many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

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Applications

1. Jesus Christ really died for our sins.
2. Eyewitness knew where Jesus was buried.
3. Jesus was buried with the wealthy just as prophesied by Isaiah.

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1. Jesus Christ Really Died

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

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1. Jesus Christ Really Died

Early Gnostics: The heavenly Christ came down upon earthly Jesus at His baptism but left prior to the crucifixion.

1 John 5:6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

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2. Jesus' Burial Spot Was Known

➤ **Basilides' Claim:** Simon the Cyrene died on the cross.

He appeared, then, on earth as a man, to the nations of these powers, and wrought miracles. Wherefore he did not himself suffer death, but Simon, a certain man of Cyrene, being compelled, bore the cross in his stead; so that this latter being transfigured by him, that he might be thought to be Jesus, was crucified, through ignorance and error, while Jesus himself received the form of Simonō (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 1.24.4).

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2. Jesus' Burial Spot Was Known

Acts 2:29-32 Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. 32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

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3. Jesus' Burial Fulfills Prophecy

Isaiah 53:9 NASB His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Isaiah 53:9 ESV And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

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