

A BURIAL FIT FOR A KING

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' arrest, trials, death, burial, and resurrection are mentioned in three chapters of the Gospel of John. Chapter 18 covers His arrest and trials. Chapter 19 covers His death and burial while chapter 20 covers His resurrection. Since we have already studied a lot of this material in previous sermons, today we are going to continue our series by looking at "4 Responses to the Death of Jesus" in John 19:31-20:2.

1). The Response of the Jews (verse 31).

Verse 31 says, *"Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away."*

Discussion Question A: Describe the Jews' reaction to Jesus' death in this passage. Were they happy or sad about it?

Discussion Question B: Now describe why they were so intent on keeping the Sabbath right after killing Him? What does this say about their priorities?

2). The Response of the Soldiers (verses 32-37).

Verses 32-34 says, *"So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."*

Discussion Question A: Explain the soldiers' actions here in your own words. Did Jesus' death have any impact on them whatsoever?

Discussion Question B: Why did one of them pierce His side with a spear? Should this event be interpreted literally or figuratively?

3). The Response of Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea (verses 38-42).

Verses 38-39 says, *“After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.”*

Discussion Question A: What is the significance of Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea being involved in the burial of Jesus?

Discussion Question B: What is it that led them to do this and how would it have surprised their fellow members of the Sanhedrin?

4). The Response of Mary (20:1-2).

20:1-2 says, *“Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”*

Discussion Question A: Do people still struggle with the resurrection and the thought of dying today? How so?

Discussion Question B: How does Mary’s story provide encouragement for them? Was Jesus’ resurrection a lot for her to process?