

Matt. 27:57-61: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus.⁵⁸ He went to Pilate & asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body & wrapped it in a clean linen shroud⁶⁰ & laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb & went away.⁶¹ Mary Magdalene & the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Intro: Last Sunday, we saw many women were present when Jesus died. They were present with Him & followed Him throughout His ministry & ministered to Him: Jesus came to save women, change women, & use women to minister to Him & to others for His glory! After receiving some good feedback on last week's sermon, I would add a final point to that sermon: Jesus Did More For These Women Than They Did For Him: These women needed a Savior! They were sinners! They were there for Jesus, but Jesus died for them!

- **H. B. Charles:** The cross is the point of the story of everything!

Today, we focus on the burial of the Lord Jesus Christ: Jesus was buried so that you will rise again!

1. God Sent Joseph Of Arimathea To Bury Jesus

Matt. 27:57-60: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus.⁵⁸ He went to Pilate & asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body & wrapped it in a clean linen shroud⁶⁰ & laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb & went away.

a. Who was Joseph of Arimathea?: He was rich; he was from the area call Arimathea (uncertain location in Israel); he was a disciple of Jesus

Jn. 19:38-40: Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, & Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh & aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus & bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. [Remember: Judas was offended at Mary's extravagant anointing of Jesus with "about a pint of pure nard . . . worth a year's wages" (John 12:1-8); Peter Nenadov: The King of the Jews who received extravagant gifts to celebrate his birth also received extravagant care to mark his burial.]

- **Lk. 23:50-51:** Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good & righteous man, who had not consented to their decision & action; & he was looking for the kingdom of God.

b. Where are the men? Here they are! **Spurgeon:** Let this be remembered for your encouragement in the cloudy & dark day. If you live in any place where the faithful fail from among men, do not wring your hands in grief & sit down in despair, as though it were all over with the cause you love! The Lord lives & He will yet keep a faithful seed alive in the earth. Another Joseph of Arimathea will come forward at the desperate moment – just when we cannot do without him, the man will be found! There was a Joseph for Israel in Egypt & there was a Joseph for Jesus on the Cross. A Joseph acted to Him a father's part at His birth, & another Joseph arranged for His burial. The Lord shall not be left without friends! God planned for His Son's burial; God has planned your life for good!

I'm thankful for the men God has brought here. Men who care for the needs of the poor. Men who are wise with money & budgets and doing the work of deacons & elders. Men who donate large amounts of money anonymously for the concrete work on our neighbors driveway. Men who support me & pray for me. Men who teach & pray & read Scripture & lead in public worship, & give me feedback on my sermons. Men who love their wives as Christ loves the church, lead their families, & train their children in the fear & admonition of the Lord. Men who are honest & humble about their struggles with sin & who seek counseling for help. Men who look to Christ & point others to Christ.

c. Joseph took courage: Mk. 15:43: Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also

himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage & went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

- **John 12:42-43:** Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Do you need to take courage & be more public, open, & bold concerning your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Spurgeon: What was it that fetched Joseph of Arimathaea out? It was the power of the Cross! Is it not a remarkable thing that all the life of Christ did not draw out an open acknowledgment from this man? Our Lord's miracles, His marvelous discourses, His poverty & self-renunciation. His glorious life of holiness & benevolence. All may have helped to build up Joseph in his secret faith, but it did not suffice to develop in him a bold declaration of faith! The shameful death of the Cross had greater power over Joseph than all the beauty of Christ's life! Now let us see, you timid, backward ones, whether the Cross will not have the same influence over you, today! I believe it will if you carefully study it. I am sure it will if the Holy Spirit lays it home to your heart!

When the cross grips you! Phil. 3:7-9: But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things & count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ & be found in him

Spurgeon: Joseph of Arimathaea, where are you? Come forward, man! Come forth! Your time has come! Come forth now! If you have followed Christ secretly, throw secrecy to the winds! From now on, be the bravest of the brave among the bodyguards of Christ who follow Him wherever He goes! Have no fear nor thought of fear, but count it all joy if you fall into manifold trials for His name's sake, who is King of kings & Lord of lords, to whom be glory forever & ever! Amen. **GOSPEL!**

d. What Joseph did fulfilled prophecy: Isa. 53:9: they made his grave with the wicked & with a rich man in his death - **Mk. 14:8:** She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.

- **Acts 2:25-32 (Peter):** For David says concerning him, [Ps. 16:8-11] "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, & my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." ²⁹ Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died & was buried, & his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, & knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw & spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

- **Matt. 12:40:** For just as Jonah was three days & three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days & three nights in the heart of the earth.

Joe Rigney: just as Jonah sang in the belly (Jon. 2:1-10), Jesus went in singing. Like Paul & Silas, who would shake the foundations of a prison with a simple melody (Acts 16:25-26), Jesus sang a greater earthquake into the prison of all prisons. Jesus came to the City of Death. He entered its gates. Doors that no man can open slammed shut behind him. But Jesus was no mere man. Unlike those who had come before, he had come to this city willingly, voluntarily. He had laid down his life of his own accord. & he had the power to take it back up again. He had come to rip the doors off the City of Death. He had come to blaze a path of life back to eternal pleasures at the right hand of God, not only for himself, but for every sheep in his fold. Christ had run his race & finished his course. For the previous six days, he had labored, & now, on the seventh day, he rested. In Sheol. In the belly of the earth. & while he waited, he sang Psalm 16.

e. Jesus' burial is important: 1 Cor. 15:3-5: For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, & that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Jesus was buried so that you will rise again!

2. Jesus Was Buried To Clearly Demonstrate He Was Dead

Matt. 27:59-61: And Joseph took the body & wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ & laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb & went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene & the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Jesus died! Jesus was dead. The prophets testified that Jesus would die; Jesus told us numerous times in Matthew's Gospel that He would be killed & die; we've seen Him die on the cross; & bodies that get wrapped in clean linen, have spices applied to them, & are laid in a tomb are dead.

- **Martyn Lloyd-Jones:** You may look at a body that appears to be inanimate and dead, but if there is any doubt or query you do not bury it until you are absolutely certain that death has taken place . . . His burial is absolute proof of the fact that He died, in the fullest sense of the term, on the Cross. It was not merely a suspension of life or of animation or of breathing; it was a true death.

- **A Brakel:** He, who prior to this had been mocked & despised of men, was not removed from their view as one unfit to be viewed by them.

3. Jesus Was Buried To Clearly Demonstrate That He Conquered Death

Rev. 1:17-18: Fear not, I am the first & the last, & the living one. I died, & behold I am alive forevermore, & I have the keys of Death & Hades. [Keys: power & authority over; He will cast them into the lake of fire! (20:14)]

a. What about the descent clause?: "He descended into hell" We've taken it out of the Apostles' Creed, but we confess it in the Athanasian creed. **WLC:** Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death? Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, & under the power of death till the third day; which hath been otherwise expressed in these words, He descended into hell.

Joel Beeke/Paul Smalley: 5) Suffering Spiritual Anguish on the Cross & 6) Dying & Dwelling in the State of Death; Christ's descent into hell consists of his extreme humiliation in both soul & body, climaxing for his soul in the suffering of God's wrath on the cross & for his body in death under God's curse, burial, & continuation in death for a time.

Matthew Emerson argues for the clause: "He descended to the place of the dead.": The doctrine of Christ's descent to the dead is that Christ, in remaining dead for three days, experienced death as all humans do: his body remained in the grave, & his soul remained in the place of the (righteous) dead [Paradise/Abraham's Bosom]. He did not suffer there, but, remaining hypostatically united to the divine nature of the Son, proclaimed the victory achieved by his penal substitutionary death to all those in the place of the dead – fallen angels, the unrighteous dead, & the OT saints.

Jesus is King of heaven, earth, AND the place of the dead! He really died! His body was put in the grave. His soul went to the place of the dead. BUT He went there & took the keys of death & Hades & rose victorious over sin, death, & hell! So that all of you who believe in Him shall rise again too!

Matthew Emerson: Jesus is King in the land of the dead! Jesus has gone into the strong man's house & bound him forever! Jesus has gone into the dark abyss & shines as the Light of the world to light & show us the way out! "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death" is a statement made by Jesus because He has gone through death & conquered death so that He might show us the way out!

- **1 Pet. 3:18-20:** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, [**"he went" ascension or descent: proclaimed victory!**]

- **Phil. 2:10-11:** at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, ¹¹ & every

tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **Rom. 10:5-9:** For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth & in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- **Tom Schreiner:** There is no need to travel to heaven to bring Christ to earth, for God has already sent him into the world. Nor should anyone think they must bring Christ up from the realm of the dead, for God has raised Christ from the dead. What God requires is not superhuman works but faith in the gospel Paul preaches.

Jesus was buried so that you will rise again!

4. Jesus Was Buried To Clearly Demonstrate That He Rose From The Dead

Matt. 27:61: Mary Magdalene & the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Here are these ladies again, as witnesses that Jesus really was dead, buried, & put in that tomb. He shall rise again!

5. Jesus Was Buried To Clearly Demonstrate That All Of Your Sins Are Forgiven And You Are Raised New

Rom. 6:1-4: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Nick Batzig: The burial of Jesus also teaches us that our sins were put away from the presence of God. We, like Him, have died, been buried and risen spiritually. The burial of Jesus is one of the often overlooked redemptive-historical elements of our salvation. Our sins were representatively put away from the presence of God in burial. This secures for us the hope of the physical resurrection on the last day. We must not miss the solidarity that we have with our Lord by virtue of our union with Him.

Jesus was buried in a garden tomb: **Jn. 19:41:** Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, & in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

- **Matthew Henry:** In the garden of Eden death & the grave first received their power, & now in a garden they are conquered, disarmed, & triumphed over. In a garden Christ began his passion, & from a garden he would rise, & begin his exaltation.

It's over! He's in the tomb! A huge stone is rolled against the entrance! All of our sin & failure & lust & rebellion against God & the condemnation, judgment, & curse of God are all buried with Him forever! & none of it are getting up from the grave! Because Jesus Christ did get up from the grave!

Micah 7:19: He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. **Commentator:** cast into depths of the sea: never to rise again to view, buried out of sight in eternal oblivion: not merely at the shore side, where they may rise again.

Jesus was buried so that you will rise again!

Jesus Was Buried In A Rich Man's Tomb; He Took His Father's Wrathful Doom; It Seemed That Life Would Not Resume; And All Men's Hearts Were Filled With Gloom; But He Would Rise – All Power Assume!

Jesus was buried

Joseph of Arimathea was looking for the Kingdom

Pilate was surprised the King was already dead
Mary saw where her King was laid; But His Resurrection is comin'!

Jesus was buried
The Messiah was cursed
The corpse is lifeless
Dreams were shattered
Love was lost
Hope is dead; But His Resurrection is comin'!

Jesus was buried
His disciples are shocked
Depression, sadness, fear, and despair have set in
Deep cries of anguish are heard
Tears are flowing, and they can't be stopped
The mourners cannot be consoled
But let me tell you something; His Resurrection is comin'!

Jesus was buried
The Roman centurion confirmed that He's dead
They pierced Him with a spear
His heart is not beating
He's no longer breathing
His body is called a corpse
There's no life in Him; But His Resurrection is comin'!

Jesus was buried
All Joseph's hopes and dreams were buried with Him
He'd lose his high place among the Council
He'd lose respect
He'd lose the praise and honor of men
He'd lose money
He'd lose prestige
He'd lose popularity
He'd lose profit
He'd lose his life
But he took courage
Because Jesus is worthy
And he left everything to follow Christ; Because they don't know; That His Resurrection is comin'!

Jesus was buried
And if you believe in Him
All of you was buried with Him too
All of you died with Him too
All of you was in that grave with Him too
But that's not the end of the story; Because His Resurrection is comin'!

Jesus was buried
And Christians have been buried by faith in Him
Your sins have all been buried
Your failures have all been buried

Your mistakes have all been buried
 Your abortions have all been buried
 Your anger has all been buried
 Your lust has all been buried
 Your addictions have all been buried
 Your addiction to pornography has all been buried
 Your addictions to glory, girls, and gold have all been buried
 Your gossip has all been buried
 Your disobedience to your parents has all been buried
 Your selfishness has all been buried
 Your sexual immorality has all been buried
 Your coveting and jealousy have all been buried
 Your foolishness and poor judgment have all been buried
 Your sinful thoughts, feelings, and motives have all been buried
 Your failure to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your failure to love your neighbor as yourself has all been buried!
 And everything else you have done to displease God – it has all been buried in that tomb!
 And in Christ all those sins have been punished with the eternal fires of God's wrath so you are free from judgment and condemnation forever!
 And all those sins have been buried, never to rise again! Because His Resurrection has come!

Jesus was buried
 And dear Christian your sins have been buried with Him
 So put off your sins and bury them all because they've all been buried!
 Bury abortion and turn away from it to life!
 Bury your anger and turn away from it to love!
 Bury lust and turn away from it to purity!
 Bury your addictions and be addicted to Christ alone!
 Bury your addiction to pornography and seek to be pure in heart that you might see God!
 Bury your addictions to glory, girls, and gold and find more in Christ than all combined!
 Bury your gossip and speak only what is true, only what is loving, and only what is helpful!
 Bury your disobedience to your parents and obey them for the glory of God!
 Bury your selfishness and live for God and others!
 Bury your sexual immorality and honor God with your bodies!
 Bury your coveting and jealousy and weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice!
 Bury your sinful thoughts, feelings, & motives & think thoughts that are holy, good, true, loving, & pleasing to God!
 Bury your lack of love for God and for others because they have already been buried in Christ!
 And you've been raised with Him to walk in newness of life forevermore!
 Because His Resurrection has come and yours will come soon and very soon!

Christ Jesus Died, Was Buried Dead
 It Happened As God's Prophets Said
 He Conquered Death And For Us Bled
 The Keys Of Death He Took To Spread
 New Resurrection Life Instead
 Captives To Freedom He Has Led
 He Bore God's Wrath And Died And Bled
 Then Rose Our Great Exalted Head

By Faith Alone We're Just And Wed
 To Christ, Our Groom, Who Struck Death Dead
 So Now, For Us, There's No More Dread
 On Death, Our Enemy, He Tread
 And Crushed The Serpent's Evil Head
 So Now, In Him, There's No More Dead
 But Joy's Fullness As He Said!