

WITH A RICH MAN IN HIS DEATH

--MARK 15:42-47--

INTRODUCTION:

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, NASB95) These verses tell us that between the crucifixion and the resurrection another event of fundamental importance occurs, that is the burial of the Lord Jesus Christ. This event is so important that all four Gospels record it because it both affirmed the deity of the Lord Jesus, and it proved the truthfulness of the Scriptures. Though the burial of Jesus Christ did not involve miracles like those that accompanied the crucifixion and the resurrection, Jesus’ burial displayed the glory and sovereignty of God by highlighting for us the wonder of God’s providence to fulfill Scripture even in His Son’s burial.

I. ROMAN SOLDIERS (John 19:31-37)

- a. God’s sovereign control over the _____ of His Son began while He was still on the cross.
- b. The religious leaders knew that the Romans would not _____ the bodies of the executed until they were dead. (John 19:31)
- c. Pilate once again gave into the religious leaders and sent to the order to break the _____ so that the victims could be removed before sundown. (John 19:32-34)
- d. What these soldiers decided to do when they came to _____ and found Him already dead must have seemed like the practical thing to do. (Psalm 34:20; Zechariah 12:10)

II. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA (Mark 15:42-43)

- a. The _____ of God is again displayed during the final few hours before sunset on Friday through an unexpected follower of Jesus Christ.
- b. Mark goes onto explain that this Joseph was “... *a prominent member of the* _____.” (Mark 15:43b, NASB95)

- c. Both Matthew and John describe Joseph of Arimathea as a _____ of Jesus. (Matthew 27:57; John 19:38)
- d. After a crucified victim was declared dead, the body would be taken from the cross and be _____ of in one of two ways.

III. PONTIUS PILATE (Mark 15:44-45)

- a. Remember the religious leaders had requested that Pilate hasten the _____ of the crucified by breaking their legs.
- b. From a human point of view, _____, a prominent and wealthy man, was motivated by a desire to honor Jesus. (Matthew 27:57; Isaiah 53:9)

IV. JESUS CHRIST’S BURIAL (Mark 15:46-47)

- a. God was also at the _____, working to make sure everything happened according to His divine schedule.
- b. The Jews did not _____ which explains why “*Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth.*” (Mark 15:46a, NASB95) (John 19:39-40)
- c. When all this was complete, Joseph and Nicodemus laid Jesus’ body “...*in a _____ which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.*” (Mark 15:46b, NASB95)
- d. Mark implies that some of the _____ who had lingered at the cross, were still there when Joseph came to claim the body.
- e. Matthew informs us that the next day, the Sabbath, the chief _____ again approached Pilate. (Matthew 27:62-66)

CONCLUSION:

When we consider the details that had to take place for the burial of Jesus to happen we can clearly see that the sovereign Lord was guiding it all. The uncaring soldiers, the loving followers, and the hostile religious leaders all acted in keeping with their own motives and desires. Yet, their actions accomplished God’s predestined and sovereign will. This truth that God is intimately involved in this world that He created should give us great comfort. He is always working to bring about His plan and purposes in this world.