

**JOHN 19:31-42**  
**THE BURIAL OF JESUS!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 19 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen, Jesus went through three religious trials and they really did not have anything to bring Him to Pilate with, He broke no Roman laws.

Yes, Jesus claimed to be Almighty God and the Jewish religious leaders could not accept that, even though He is Almighty God.

So they made up some charges to accuse Jesus before Pilate. We are told, after those three religious trials, **“Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, ‘We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.’ Then Pilate asked Him, saying, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ He answered him and said, ‘It is as you say.’ So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, ‘I find no fault in this Man.’ But they were the more fierce, saying, ‘He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.’”** Luke 23:1-5.

And so began the first of three civil trials. That first one was before Pilate, then before Herod and lastly, before Pilate.

Within that time Jesus has been beaten, His beard plucked out, scourged leaving His back like raw meat, bleeding, they placed a crown of thorns on His head, He was a mess!

And Pilate wanted to let Him go, there was nothing that He did wrong to have Jesus put to death by crucifixion!

But the Jewish religious leaders and the Jewish crowds of people that were stirred by these Jewish religious leaders called for Jesus to be put to death and to release a murderer, release Barabbas!

It was so bad, the crowds were so out of control, that we are told in John 19:15, **“But they cried out, ‘Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar!’”**

Pilate wanted nothing to do with this, but because of the pressure of this crowd, he gave in and had Jesus crucified.

And for the Jews to say, **“... ‘We have no king but Caesar!’”** They hated Rome and yet, they hated Jesus so much that they were willing to bow their knee before Caesar and forget about the Lord that they said they loved!

It is after this last meeting before Pilate that Jesus will be lead away to be crucified. This is what John tells us beginning in verse 16 of John chapter 19, **“Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.”** John 19:16-18.

And, as we saw, from 9 am to 12 noon they mocked Jesus, put Him down, challenged Him to get down from the cross.

But then something happened beginning at 12 noon until He gave up His Spirit at 3 pm. Darkness covered the face of the land. I am sure that this put some fear into the hearts of the people because they knew that darkness was a sign of God’s judgment, but it didn’t stop them from what they were doing.

I have called our study this morning – ***THE BURIAL OF JESUS!***

And I have broken down the verses we will be looking at like this,

***THE HYPOCRISY OF THE JEWS – JOHN 19:31***

***NOT ONE OF HIS BONES WERE BROKEN – JOHN 19:32-37***

***NO LONGER HIDDEN FAITH – JOHN 19:38-39***

***THE KING IS BURIED – JOHN 19:40-42***

And as we finished up last time, we read in John 19:30, “**So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.**”

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in John chapter 19, beginning in verse 31 and let’s see what the Lord has for us this morning as we study His Word and we look at this topic – ***THE BURIAL OF JESUS!***

## **JOHN 19**

### **VERSE 31**

Keep in mind that it is Thursday and the Preparation Day, or the High Holy Day was the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, sometimes also called Passover since these feasts ran side-by-side, and this was to begin at sundown, which would begin a new day for the Jew.

Thus, Friday was a holy day and Saturday was the Sabbath and Jesus rose on Sunday morning, being in the tomb three days: Thursday, Friday and Saturday!

Let me explain this a little more because so many are confused about Jesus being crucified on a Friday, that is the day they feel, and thus, we celebrate Good Friday as the death of Jesus. And the reason why so many feel that Jesus was crucified on a Friday is because John tells us it was the Sabbath. But keep in mind John says it was a **“high day.”**

What is my point?

My point is this and I hope it helps you to understand what this was all about.

But let me also say this. Please don't let this get into a debate because the reality is, Jesus rose from the grave and the day of the week He was crucified, if it was that important, the Holy Spirit would have told us.

In saying that, I truly believe that Jesus was crucified on a Thursday instead of a Friday and I will show you why. And then you can pray about it and read the Scriptures and see what God is showing you.

First of all, like I have said, in John 19:31 we are told that Jesus was crucified on the Preparation Day before the High Sabbath Day or the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That would put the crucifixion of Jesus on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan or Passover, since the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan.

Let's look at Matthew 12:40 and see what Jesus has to say regarding His death and His resurrection.

We are told, **“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”**

In other words, just as Jonah was in the belly of this great fish for three days and three nights, so too will Jesus be in the tomb for three days and three nights.

Using a Friday for His crucifixion does not fit the three days and three nights. You can fit two days into that date, but really not three.

But Jesus clearly is telling us that He would be in the “heart of the earth” for three days and three nights!

Keep in mind that the Jewish day began at sunset and ended the following day just before sunset. We see this played out for us in Genesis 1:5, where we are told, “God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.”

So let me play this out for you to show you how the Thursday day for the crucifixion fits what Jesus was saying.

**Day 1 – Thursday – 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan**

Remember that Jesus died at 3 pm, before sundown.

**Night 1 – Friday – 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan**

When the sun went down on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan a new day began, that Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan and the Feast of Unleavened Bread began.

**Day 2 – Friday – 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan**

Again, this is still Friday, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread is still going on, just the first day or the High Sabbath Day.

**Night 2 – Saturday – 16<sup>th</sup> of Nisan**

We are still in the Feast of Unleavened Bread but now, at sundown Friday it began a new day, Saturday.

**Day 3 – Saturday – 16<sup>th</sup> of Nisan**

Again, they were celebrating the Sabbath until sundown.

**Night 3 – Sunday – 17<sup>th</sup> of Nisan**

As the sun went down on that 16<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, a new day began, Sunday. And we are told in Matthew 28:1 that the women came to the tomb before sunrise. Jesus rose from the grave on a Sunday, the first day of the week after being in the tomb for three days and three nights!

Hopefully that is helpful to you.

Now let me deal with this issue – ***THE HYPOCRISY OF THE JEWS!***

So the High Sabbath or Holy Day is about to begin or the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Jews want these men to be taken off these crosses before the sun goes down and this Feast begins.

It is as one author put it. He wrote, *“Nowhere is the ungodly hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders more evident than in their insistence that Jesus’ body be taken down before the Sabbath. They had no compunction about murdering the Lord of the Sabbath, yet they were meticulous in not wanting to defile the Sabbath by having His body hanging on the cross after that day began.”*

Do you see the religious hypocrisy that was going on here!

During Jesus’ earthly ministry He came down hard upon the religious leaders that played the part but that is all it was. There was no relationship with God, and we see how that is manifested with their actions here against Jesus.

And we have to be careful not to point the finger in their direction for what they did, because we all play the role of a hypocrite from time to time. In other words, acting like something we are not.

One writer summed it up for us like this. He wrote,

A common objection to Christianity often sounds something like this: *“Christians do not practice what they preach. They say one thing but do another. If the Christian God exists, He doesn’t seem to be powerful enough to transform His followers. For this reason, I don’t believe the Christian God exists.”*

When people profess beliefs contrary to their actual behavior, our culture quickly identifies them as *“hypocrites.”*

Hypocrisy, according to this definition, is the act of saying one thing but doing another. But this limited definition makes all of us hypocrites, doesn't it? Everyone has an area in his or her life where their beliefs are in contradiction with their actions.

Hypocrisy must, therefore, describe something more than occasional misbehavior. When someone claims to believe one thing, but continually and unapologetically practices another, they can accurately be described as hypocritical. This definition isolates the repetitive, intentional behaviors rightly scorned by our society. Given this is the true nature of the term *“hypocrisy”*, much can be said about the nature of *“Christian Hypocrisy.”*

Jesus despised hypocrites. He often identified people of his day who claimed to be God followers, yet lived as though they were unbelievers, pretending to be religious while living continually (and unremorsefully) in their sinful disobedience.

Jesus warned these folks were not who they claimed to be and would eventually be judged just like those who reject God altogether. In essence, Jesus placed hypocrites and unbelievers in the same category because hypocrites are, in fact, unbelievers.

When skeptics are angered by the hypocrisy they see in *“Christians,”* they are actually judging the contradictory lives of unbelieving men and women who only claim to be Christ followers.

This doesn't mean, however, Christians are incapable of acting in a way contrary to what they believe about morality and appropriate behavior; it happens all the time.

The difference is a matter of repetition and attitude. It's one thing to struggle occasionally while striving to repent and become a better person; it's another thing to continue in one's sinful behavior without any regret or desire to improve.

When skeptics are angered by the poor behavior they may occasionally see in the lives of Christians, they need to distinguish between these two realities.

The Christian moral code is an incredibly high, objective standard transcending the opinion of each believer. Skeptics have access to the Biblical text and they can observe the daily lives of Christians, comparing the two whenever they want.

It's easy to condemn the actions of those who hold to commonly known, exceedingly high standard; it's far more difficult to judge the lives of those who are quiet about what they believe and can later nuance [expose] their values to match their behavior.

When skeptics are angered by the obviously inconsistent behavior they see in the lives of Christians, they need to examine their own lives and recognize their own (more private) disappointments.

Christian failures are simply more available given the objectively perfect and public nature of the Biblical Standard.

It is possible to live a life of integrity once we understand the true nature of *“hypocrisy.”*

There are millions of Christians who strive daily to be more like the Master. They will fail on occasion, but this does not mean they are hypocrites.

- <http://bit.ly/3Z32M9M>

But as we have seen in the Gospels, many of these religious leaders had passed the point of no return. And again, here is the evidence. They are acting religious, get these men off these crosses before the High Holy Day begins, but they are putting an innocent Man, Jesus Christ to death!

Now, why did they ask Pilate to do this?



Because these Roman soldiers would not allow a crucified man to be taken down from the cross until they were sure they were dead!

And many times these men who were being crucified would hang from their cross for days, just lingering in pain day after day. But again, it is a High Holy Day that is coming, and the Jewish religious leaders wanted them to be taken down from their cross.

So, to hasten their death, they ask Pilate to have his men break their legs!

As bad as that sounds, it truly was!

The way that they would do this is they would take a large wooden mallet and strike the lower legs shattering the tibia and the fibula bones. These bones connect the ankle to the knee.

Now you may be wondering what that would accomplish besides bringing about more excruciating pain!

By breaking their legs, it would hasten their death because they would not be able to push themselves up to breath and you would end up suffocating! Again, can you even imagine such cruelty!

Tenney makes these remarks regarding what was done here.

He wrote, *“The only way a crucified man would obtain a full breath of air was to raise himself by means of his legs to ease the tension on his arms and chest muscles. If the legs were broken, he could not possibly do so; and death would follow shortly because of lack of oxygen.”*

So now word gets back to these Roman Soldiers that Pilate has okayed the request by these Jewish religious leaders to break the legs of these men being crucified, including Jesus!

But as we are going to see – ***NOT ONE OF HIS BONES WERE BROKEN!***

VERSES 32-37

Here we are told that the Roman soldiers broke the legs of the men who were being crucified with Jesus. Can you imagine what they felt like!

Now as cruel as that sounds, it did hasten the death of these men. You see, some could last up to 36 hours upon a cross before they died, but here, death came sooner.

And for the one man, he will be with Jesus in Paradise.

For the other, it is an eternity apart from Christ!

And when they came to Jesus, He was already dead, and they did not carry out the order they had, to break His legs.

We might not think much of this but by not breaking the legs of Jesus, it was the fulfillment of prophecy, that none of His bones were broken.

In speaking of the Passover lamb, we read in Exodus 12:46, “**In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.**”

And in Psalm 34:20 we are also told of this regarding our Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, “**He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.**”

They did not break the legs of Jesus but look at what they did do.

They pierced His side with a spear.

Why did they do that?

Maybe to make sure Jesus was dead.

Remember, Pilate wanted to know if Jesus was really dead. He wanted to make sure of this and we are told of this in Mark 15:44-45, **“Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.”**

We will get to Joseph and Nicodemus in a few minutes, as they care for the body of Jesus.

But make no mistake about it, the Romans knew when a person was dead and once that spear was thrust into the side of Jesus, there was no mistaking the fact that He was dead!

Also, according to Bible scholar Alfred Edersheim in his classic work *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, he says that if Rome wanted to hasten the death of someone being crucified, or to simply verify that they were in fact dead, the Roman soldiers standing by would administer what was called the **“death stroke.”**

That was what was done here with Jesus as this spear was jabbed into the heart of Jesus, just as it was done to others to make sure they would not cheat death!

And once this spear was thrust into the side of Jesus, we are told that blood and water came out!

This seems to indicate that Jesus died of a broken heart.

Let me explain what I mean.

There is a sac that goes around your heart called the pericardial sac that has a small amount of fluid in it normally.

But, during times of extreme stress, where the body is going through suffering like what we see happening with Jesus, that sac can fill up with lots of fluid.

Now, as the soldier thrust his spear into the side of Jesus not only did this watery fluid come out, but so did blood, which would occur if the heart ruptured and filled the pericardial sac with blood.

It is a possibility.

Here is the bigger issue for me. This shows that Jesus was not some kind of spirit being like the Gnostics were saying, but was flesh and blood, He was real.

John deals with this very thing in I John 1:1-4 where he tells us, **“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”**

You see, John tells us that Jesus was real, they touched Him, spoke with Him, He spoke with them, He was not some spirit being that hovered over the ground!

And what we see here in John’s Gospel is that Jesus was flesh and blood!

Also, you may hear some people say that Jesus never died but just passed out – the Swoon theory!

Let me say this, the Roman soldiers, in charge of doing these executions, knew when a person died, they were experts.

And if there is still a doubt, a spear being thrust into the side of Jesus should put that thought to rest and if you doubt that, you can do the experiment with yourself and see how you do with the beatings, the scourging, the crucifixion and the spear thrust into your side.

If you only pass out, well, then you have a case, and you can let me know, but you won't survive, you weren't meant to!

That was the point of ***CRUCIFIXION – DEATH!***

Now this is interesting to me because I really didn't pick up on this until the last time we went through the Gospel of John.

John was an eyewitness to what happened not only in the life of Jesus but with His crucifixion. Now I know that John was there when Jesus said to him to watch Mary, to care for her. But I kind of thought they all left, but it does not seem to be the case. John was there, he was at the foot of the cross, he saw these things come to pass and now he is telling them to us. In fact, He saw this spear go into His side and He knew that Jesus was dead!

Why is he doing that, for what purpose?

Very simply, that we would read them and believe that Jesus is God and died on the cross of Calvary for our sins paying that penalty in full, and as we will see next time, on the third day He will rise from the dead!

Now, as I have said, John tells us that none of His bones were broken and that He would be pierced was prophetic in nature and it came to pass!

Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled in Christ's First Coming, and if you do the math, even 8 of these fulfilled in any one man is beyond any mathematical probability, let alone over 300!

Now some may argue that others have made prophecies before, and they have. But listen to this and see what conclusion you come to.

We are told,

Contemporary critics of biblical prophecy nominate psychic predictions for equality with Scripture.

There is another quantum leap between every psychic and the unerring prophets of Scripture.

Indeed, one test of a prophet was whether they ever uttered predictions that did not come to pass (Deut. 18:22). Those whose prophecies failed were stoned (18:20) – a practice that no doubt gave pause to any who were not absolutely sure their messages were from God.

Amid hundreds of prophecies, biblical prophets are not known to have made a single error.

A study of prophecies made by psychics in 1975 and observed until 1981 showed that of the seventy-two predictions, only six were fulfilled in any way.

Two of these were very vague and two others were hardly surprising – the United States and Russia would remain leading powers and there would be no world wars. The People's Almanac (1976) did a study of the predictions of twenty-five top psychics. . .

. . . The results: Of the total seventy-two predictions, sixty-six (92 percent) were totally wrong.

An accuracy rate around 8 percent could easily be explained by chance and general knowledge of circumstances.

In 1993 the psychics missed every major unexpected news story, including Michael Jordan's retirement, the Midwest flooding, and the Israel – PLO peace treaty.

Among their false prophecies were the prediction that the Queen of England would become a nun, and that Kathy Lee Gifford would replace Jay Leno as the Host of The Tonight Show.

Likewise, the highly reputed “predictions” of Nostradamus were not that amazing at all.

Contrary to popular belief, he never predicted either the place or the year of a great California earthquake. Most of his “famous” predictions, such as the rise of Hitler, were vague.

As other psychics, he was frequently wrong, a false prophet by biblical standards.

- Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, pp. 194-195

I think that is clear, when you look at the Bible you will find that over 25% of its content is prophetic in nature. Some have come to pass; others are still waiting for their fulfillment.

But God has not been wrong once, and if He was right over 300 times regarding His First Coming, I think the over 500 prophecies of His Second Coming will be right on the money!

I do realize that some think that these prophecies are vague and not a big deal. Make no mistake about it, they are very specific, and it is a big deal.

Let me share with you the probability of these prophecies happening from Peter Stoner’s book, *Science Speaks*.

He tells us,

We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in  $10^{17}$  [(10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power). That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 [I believe this is one hundred quintillion] (17 zeros after the one).

In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that] we take  $10^{17}$  silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep.

Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state.

Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one.

What chance would he have of getting the right one?

Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom.

Now these prophecies were either given by inspiration of God or the prophets just wrote them as they thought they should be. In such a case the prophets had just one chance in  $10^{17}$  of having them come true in any man, but they all came true in Christ.

This means that the fulfillment of these eight prophecies alone proves that God inspired the writing of those prophecies to a definiteness [certainty] which lacks only once chance in  $10^{17}$  of being absolute. (Stoner, SS, 100-107).

- Josh McDowell, The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict, pp. 193-194

Maybe that is not good enough for you. If you are still thinking this could just happen by random chance, then look at the probability of just forty-eight of the over 300 prophecies of Jesus coming to pass in His first coming.



Peter Stoner tells us,

. . . we find the chance that any one man fulfilled all 48 prophecies to be 1 in  $10^{157}$ . This is a really large number and it represents an extremely small chance. Let us try to visualize it. The silver dollar, which we have been using, is entirely too large. We must select a smaller object.

The electron is about as small an object as we know of. It is so small that it will take 2.5 times  $10^{15}$  of them laid side by side to make a line, single file, one inch long.

If we were going to count the electrons in this line one inch long, and counted 250 each minute, and if we counted day and night, it would take us 19,000,000 years to count just the one-inch line of electrons.

If we had a cubic inch of these electrons and we tried to count them it would take us, counting steadily 250 each minute, 19,000,000 times 19,000,000 times 19,000,000 years or 6.9 times  $10^{21}$  years.

. . . Let us suppose that we are taking this number of electrons, marking one, and thoroughly stirring it into the whole mass, then blindfolding a man and letting him try to find the right one.

What chance has he of finding the right one?

What kind of a pile will this number of electrons make?

They make an inconceivably large volume.

Such is the chance of any one man fulfilling 48 prophecies.

- Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict, p 167

And please understand that I am not saying God gets it right 99% of the time, but 100% of the time and His prophecies are not vague but very accurate and to the point! There is no one else who can do that, only ***GOD!***

In these verses we saw two prophecies come to pass – ***NONE OF HIS BONES WERE BROKEN*** and ***THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHO THEY PIERCED!***

As we read on, we will be looking at – ***NO LONGER HIDDEN FAITH!***

### VERSES 38-39

Here we see two men, secret followers of Jesus, and now they step forward to care for the body of Jesus.

Who were these men?

First of all, we see a man named Joseph. He was from the area of Arimathea, which was about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

Also, Joseph was a rich man. We see this in Matthew 27:57, “**Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.**”

Matthew tells us that not only was Joseph rich but he also was a disciple of Jesus. But prior to this, he was more of a closet Christian you might say!

Not only that, but we are also told in Mark and in Luke that Joseph was “**a member of the Council.**” (Mark 15:43, Luke 23:50)

What does that mean? It means that he was a member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish High Council or what we may call the Jewish religious Supreme Court!

Also, we are told that Joseph was “**waiting for the kingdom of God.**” (Mark 15:43)

And in Luke 23:50-51 we also see that he was **“a good and just man. He had not consented to their counsel and deed. . . . who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God.”**

Then there was Nicodemus, and if you want an easy way to remember him, just think of ***NICK AT NIGHT!***

He was the Pharisee that came to see Jesus privately, at night in John chapter 3. He was also part of the Sanhedrin, and he too was afraid to make his faith in Jesus known!

But that has all changed now. And from reading this it seems like both Nicodemus and Joseph took the body of Jesus off the cross.

Can you imagine the guts it took for them first of all to go to Pilate and ask for the body of Jesus. And then go and take the body of Jesus off the cross as I am sure there were people who were watching!

This secret that they held was now in the open for all to see and now it didn't seem to bother them.

Think about what they had to do.

They had to remove the nails from his hands and feet, which would have been difficult.

They would have to take the bloody, beaten body of Jesus off that cross and bring it to the grave to be buried.

And yet, they were willing to sacrifice everything for the Lord!

Why were they in such a hurry to do this?

First of all, the Romans didn't care about the criminals that were crucified. And many times they would leave these bodies on the crosses for the birds and wild animals and what was left was finally put into a common grave.

Also, as Morris tells us, ***“The Jews of that day regarded proper burial of the dead as most important. Many went out of their way to see that fellow-countrymen received proper burial, and this may have had something to do with Joseph’s action.”***

So for the Jews, it was important for them to care for the bodies of a dead person, give them a proper burial.

Thus, they take the body of Jesus and quickly wrap it in cloth and spices and place it into the garden tomb, one Joseph had made for him and his family but was never used.

It is as Isaiah 53:9 says, **“And they made His grave with the wicked - But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.”**

Maybe you are where Joseph and Nicodemus were at, hiding your faith so no one will see because you are afraid of what they may say or even what they may do to you because of your faith!

What will it take for you to come out of the closet, you might say, and let your faith be seen by those around you.

I am not saying be obnoxious, but to live out your faith in spite of what others might think or say!

Let me put it like this with this illustration.

We are told,

We have a sterling silver tea set at home that a family member gave us as a reminder of her love for us.

It’s quite old and beautifully made, and it sits on a stand in our dining room.

There’s only one problem: we can’t use it. Before she gave it to us, she had it chemically coated so that it wouldn’t tarnish. Hot water will ruin the finish.

God's not looking for sterling silver tea sets. He's looking for rough-and-tumble clay pots  
- the kind that can be used every day.

He's looking for the kind of pots that don't need to be tucked away in a china closet, but  
can be sent out into a crash-bang world, carrying within them the life of Christ. The church was  
never meant to be a china cabinet, where precious pieces could be safely stowed out of harm's  
way.

The church was meant to be a working kitchen, where well-worn pots are filled again and  
again to dispense their life-giving contents to a thirsty world.

- Source Unknown

May we let our light shine like we see here with Joseph and Nicodemus so that the world  
can see our love for Jesus – ***NO LONGER HIDDEN FAITH!***

As we finish up this morning we will be looking at – ***THE KING IS BURIED!***

#### VERSES 40-42

Now if you ever get to go to Israel or see pictures of this area, outside of the city is  
Calvary or the place of the skull which looks just like a skull cut into the rock.

And just to the side of Calvary is a garden tomb where they placed the body of Jesus!

It is a very moving place to go, realizing this is where it all took place, the work was  
completed!

And what we are told is that Joseph and Nicodemus not only take the body of Jesus off the cross but then, after preparing the body for burial, they put the body of Jesus in this tomb, and they roll the stone in front of it. They were in a hurry because the Feast of Unleavened Bread is about to begin, it is almost sundown.

Keep in mind that Jesus was not buried in the ground, but in a tomb or a cave cut into the rock. And a typical tomb of this type had a small entrance and perhaps one or more compartments where bodies were laid out after being somewhat mummified with spices, ointments, and linen strips.

Customarily, the Jews left these bodies alone for a few years until they decayed down to the bones, then the bones were placed in a small stone box known as an ossuary. The ossuary remained in the tomb with the remains of other family members.

Also, the door to the tomb was typically made of a heavy, circular shaped stone, running in a groove and settled down into a channel, so it could not be moved except by several strong men. This was done to ensure that no one would disturb the remains.

Later the Apostle John tells us that these strips of cloth were wound around Jesus' torso, arms, and legs and that a separate piece of cloth was used to cover His head leaving His face exposed.

Keep that in mind, that a separate cloth was used to cover His face.

But what about the ***Shroud of Turin*** or this burial cloth of Jesus that many claim gives us a picture of Christ on this cloth.

I guess I should answer this question first, since many may not be familiar with the Shroud of Turin. What is this Shroud of Turin?

First of all, the Shroud of Turin resides in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy, as it has for over four centuries.

And what is on this cloth is a faint, yellowed image of a naked, crucified man and is believed by millions of Christians to be the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth.

I don't believe that this Shroud of Turin is the burial cloth of Jesus and there is a lot of evidence to disprove this. And I will deal with that more in a minute.

But since this is such a big deal, I thought I would share this with you as one article tells us,

A new scientific method revealed that the Shroud of Turin may truly originate from the 1st Century, around the time of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Italian scientist Liberato De Caro told the National Catholic Register (NCR) that his fabric test shows the Shroud is roughly 2,000 years old. De Caro and his colleagues made the discovery by utilizing a technique called "Wide-Angle X-ray Scattering" (WAXS).

The shroud is located in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy. It depicts the image of a crucified man, and scientists and experts have studied it for a long time in an attempt to determine if it could have been the burial cloth of Jesus Christ.

- <http://bit.ly/3SfyFK2>

And millions have seen this cloth and millions believe it is the actual burial cloth of Jesus.

But when you look at what John tells us here in John chapter 19, it does not fit the picture of what this cloth looks like as Jesus was wrapped in these strips of linen and His face was covered by a separate piece of linen.

It is as one author said, *“This proves to me conclusively the Shroud of Turin is not authentic. Think of the pictures you’ve seen of the shroud. They always show the imprint of the crucified victim from head to toe. Here, the Scripture record says there was a napkin - a separate piece of cloth around the head. Thus, the shroud does not meet this particular criterion.”*

May we learn to trust what the Bible says and not what man is claiming to be true. Many have done this with evolution and thus, they make the Bible and the Creation story fit into what evolution is saying!

Don’t do that! Believe what the Bible is saying and yes, it may take man some time to figure out what they are proclaiming is wrong, but we already know that because it is what the Bible is telling us.

Now this garden tomb is close by Calvary. And it was not discovered until 1867 by a godly British army officer named General Gordon.

General Gordon, at first, thought he had just found a cave. But as they continued to examine this so-called cave, they discovered that it was a man-made burial chamber that was hewn out of the stone!

Not only that, but they also knew it was a rich man who had made this burial chamber for his family because it had two compartments to it. That was consistent with how the rich had their burial chambers constructed.



Of this find, we are told, *“When the Garden Tomb was discovered in 1867, the godly General Gordon was convinced that this was the place where the body of Jesus had lain. The Garden Tomb, hidden for centuries, was covered with rubbish twenty feet high. When they first cleared the spot, with great caution they gathered all the dust and debris within the tomb and carefully shipped it to the Scientific Association of Great Britain with this question – ‘Are there any traces of decomposition in these samples?’ After everything was carefully analyzed - they sent word back to General Gordon – ‘After carefully examining the samples you sent us, we have concluded that there is absolutely no traces of human decomposition or decay in them.’”*

Keep that in mind because it not only tells us that this tomb was never used or I should say it was used for only three days by Jesus and thus, there was no human decomposition or decay that was found in the dust and debris!

So this burial of Jesus is in fulfillment of what Isaiah 53:9 tells us, **“And they made His grave with the wicked - But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.”**

Remember what we saw.

On the cross He hung with the wicked, two criminals beside Him.

But, in His death He was placed in the tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea! How do I know it was Joseph’s burial tomb for him and his family? Because Matthew 27:59-60 tells us, **“When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.”**

Now think about this for a minute, because some 750 years before these events took place God has told us what was to happen.

And keep in mind that is not how the Romans did things.

After a criminal was put to death, and in their eyes, Jesus was a criminal, if they were poor and their family did not have the money to bury them, the Romans would cast the deceased into a common burial pit with the rest of the criminals where animals would come and eat their flesh.

In fact, many times they would leave them hanging on the cross for several days after they were dead as a warning to others not to go down that same path.

But, as we have seen here in John, Joseph of Arimathea came and gave the tomb that was for his family for the burial of Jesus.

### ***THE KING IS BURIED!***

So after all that is done, Matthew tells us, **“When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.”** Matthew 27:59-60.

Both Joseph and Nicodemus leave and keep in mind that many of the woman who followed Jesus saw where they laid the body of Jesus, the tomb where He was placed. (Luke 23:55)

Also, we need to remember that the Jewish religious leaders did not believe that Jesus was going to rise from the dead, but they were concerned that someone might steal the body of Jesus and claim that He rose from the dead.

That is what we see in Matthew 27:62-66, **“On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, ‘Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise.” Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, “He has risen from the dead.” So the last deception will be worse than the first.’ Pilate said to them, ‘You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.’ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.”**

Again, these religious leaders were listening to what Jesus said while His own men missed that He would rise on the third day.

And the concern of these religious leaders was that someone would steal the body of Jesus and claim that He rose from the dead, as I have said.

So they come to Pilate for a solution to this problem.

And we see that Pilate gives them the guards they need, the tomb is sealed with the Roman Seal, string and wax so if the tomb was opened, the seal would be broken.

And, if you were caught, you would be put to death. Keep in mind that this was probably a Roman guard detail and not Jewish.

France puts it like this, ***“It is unlikely that the Jews would have needed Pilate’s permission at all to deploy their own police; moreover the word for guard is (uniquely in the New Testament) a transliteration of the Latin word custodia. It is therefore more likely that it was Pilate’s troops who were used; the Jewish leaders are going for maximum security.”***

Also, a Roman guard detail varied in size from four to sixteen men.

When sixteen participated in overnight duty, each quaternion (group of four men) took the watch for about three hours (Acts 12:4) so that four men were awake at all times.

The four on guard stood at the object to be secured, while the other twelve slept in a semicircle with their heads pointed inward. Each soldier was armed with a six-foot pike [which is a weapon consisting of a spearhead attached to a long pole], a sword, and a dagger.

And if you allowed what you were watching to be stolen, you would be put to death! And if you were on duty and feel asleep you could also be put to death. So great incentive for these Roman soldiers to do their job!

Now, as we know, this is not the end of the story.

But imagine His disciples, all those who followed Jesus. It would seem hopeless for them. Everything they were living for was taken away in a day.

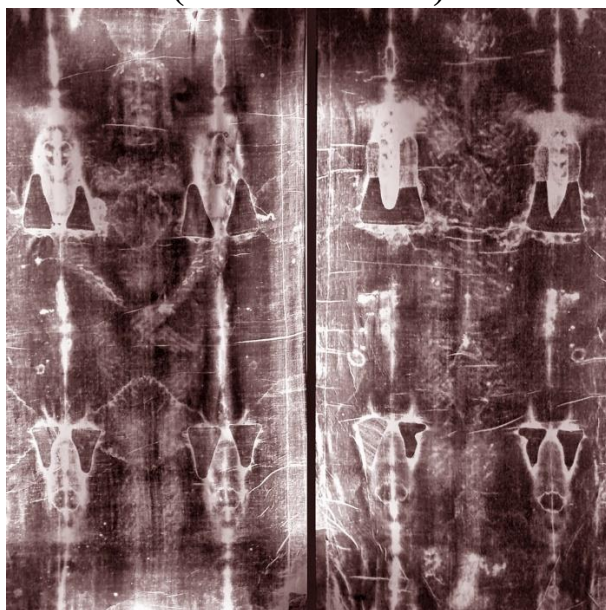
And thus, what a dark, painful day this was.

But let us not forget that Sunday is coming!

You see, even in our own lives the cross and the power of the resurrection are closely related – we must die to self to see the power of God work and next time we will see Jesus' triumph over death, which Paul tells us, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”** I Corinthians 15:20-22.

You see, because He lives so will we!

**Shroud of Turin**  
**(Fake Not real)**

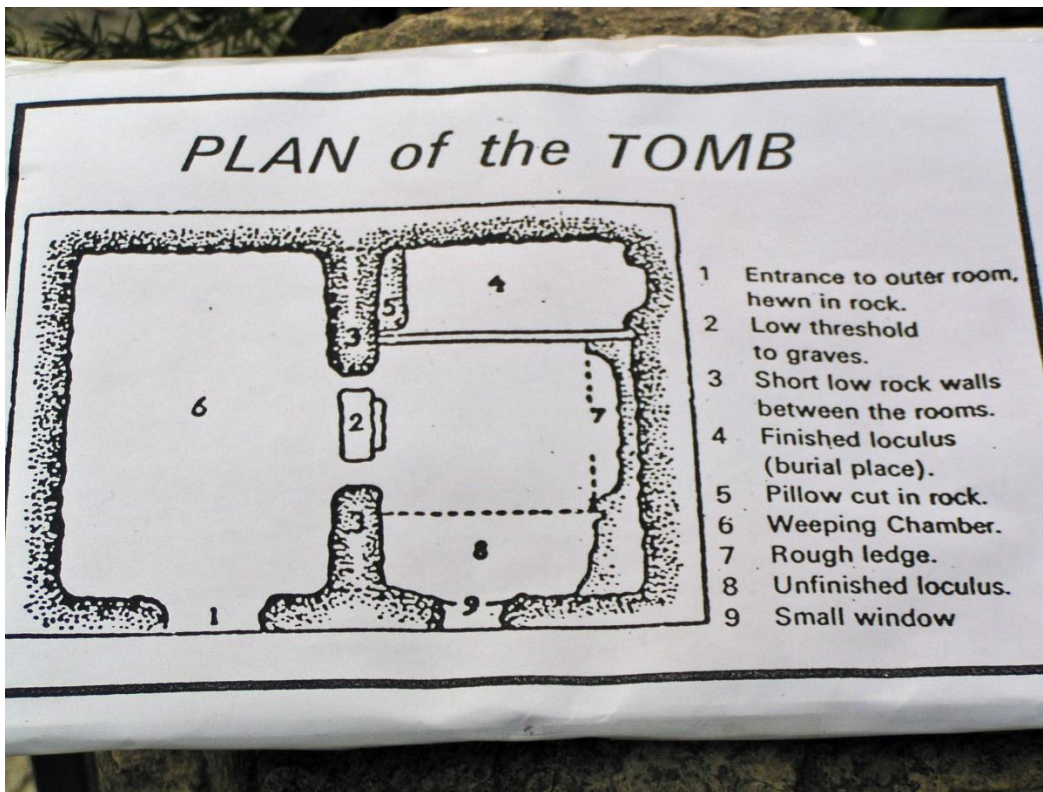


**GOLGOTHA**





## THE GARDEN TOMB



**BURIAL TOMB – PLACE WHERE THE BODY OF JESUS WAS PLACED**

