

BEAUTY COSTS SO MUCH

JOHN 19:38-42

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This powerful message invites us to examine the profound cost of true beauty through the lens of Christ's burial in John 19:38-42. We encounter two secret disciples, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who finally stepped out of the shadows at the moment of Jesus' death. These wealthy, high-ranking religious leaders risked everything—their reputations, positions, and livelihoods—to publicly claim Jesus' body and provide Him with an honorable burial worth approximately \$150,000 in today's currency. Their story challenges us to consider: Are we still hiding our faith in the shadows? The message beautifully weaves together themes of public faith, the cost of discipleship, and our future hope in resurrection. We're reminded that God's timing is perfect for when we go public with our faith, and that stepping into that moment—though costly—brings profound spiritual impact. The discussion extends to our future glorified bodies, drawing from Philippians 3, 1 Corinthians 15, and 1 Thessalonians 4, assuring us that our perishable bodies will be raised imperishable, transformed into conformity with Christ's glorified body. This isn't a message of fear about death, but of confident hope in what awaits us—perfect bodies without sin, disease, or decay, eternally in God's presence.

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **John 19:38-42** - Main text about Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus taking Jesus's body
2. **Philippians 3:17-21** - Citizenship in heaven and transformation of our bodies

3. **2 Corinthians 5:1-6** - Earthly tents torn down, eternal dwelling in heaven
4. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** - The dead in Christ rising first, being caught up together
5. **1 Corinthians 15:42-49** - Perishable vs. imperishable bodies, natural vs. spiritual bodies

Alluded To References:

6. **John 3** - Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night, conversation about being born again
7. **Matthew 17:1-8 / Mark 9:2-8 / Luke 9:28-36** - The Transfiguration (mentioned as Jesus getting his new body)

Relevant Verses for Themes Discussed:

Theme: Secret Discipleship/Going Public with Faith

8. **John 12:42-43** - Many believed but wouldn't confess for fear of the Pharisees
9. **Matthew 10:32-33** - Confessing Christ before men

Theme: Provoking One Another

10. **Hebrews 10:24** - "Provoke one another to love and good works"

Theme: Forgiveness and Eternal Life

11. **John 11:25-26** - Jesus as the resurrection and the life
12. **Romans 6:23** - The wages of sin vs. the gift of God

Theme: New Bodies/Resurrection

13. **1 John 3:2** - We shall be like Him when He appears
14. **Romans 8:11** - The Spirit will give life to mortal bodies

Theme: The Cost of Discipleship

15. **Luke 14:28** - Counting the cost
16. **Matthew 16:24** - Taking up one's cross

Chapters

Chapter 1: Going Public with Faith

0:00 - 10:56

An examination of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who finally came out of hiding to publicly claim Jesus' body, despite the personal cost.

Chapter 2: The Honorable Burial of Christ

10:56 - 19:54

The text details how Joseph and Nicodemus lovingly prepared Jesus' body with expensive perfumes and placed Him in a new tomb, showing extravagant honor to the Savior.

Chapter 3: Our Future Glorified Bodies

19:54 - 39:07

Scripture reveals the promise of our future resurrection bodies - imperishable, powerful, and spiritual bodies that will be like Christ's glorified body.

Chapter 4: Preparing for Our Departure

39:07 - 49:10

A practical discussion about being conscientious regarding end-of-life planning and burial arrangements, encouraging families to prepare financially and have conversations about these matters.

Keywords

Resurrection New Body Joseph Of Arimathea Nicodemus Crucifixion Public Faith

Discipleship Sacrifice Eternal Life Transformation Cross Of Christ Salvation Eternity

Imperishable Body Burial Beauty In Sacrifice Going Public Cost Of Discipleship

Glorified Body Secret Disciple Fear Of Man Forgiveness Hope Heaven Resurrection Power

Small Group Guide: "Beauty Costs So Much"

Based on John 19:38-42

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to what He wants to teach through this study, and to give courage to those who need to step out in faith.

Ice Breaker

Share one thing you're looking forward to about eternity with God. What aspect of the "new body" or new life excites you most?

Key Scripture

John 19:38-42 - Read this passage together, focusing on Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus coming out of the shadows to honor Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Secret Discipleship

- Why do you think Joseph and Nicodemus kept their faith secret for so long?
- What fears might keep someone from going "public" with their faith today?
- The pastor mentioned God's timing in their public declaration. How does this balance with our responsibility to share our faith?

2. The Cost of Going Public

- Joseph and Nicodemus paid dearly (financially, socially, politically) for honoring Jesus publicly. What did their actions cost them?
- What might it cost you to be more public about your faith with family, friends, or coworkers?
- Share a time when following Jesus cost you something. Was it worth it?

3. Extravagant Love

- These men brought approximately \$150,000 worth of burial spices. What does this tell us about their love for Jesus?
- In what ways can we show extravagant love and honor to Jesus today?
- How do we balance honoring God with our resources while being good stewards?

4. Our Future Bodies

- Review the passages mentioned: Philippians 3:20-21, 2 Corinthians 5:1-6, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:42-49
- What characteristics will our resurrected bodies have?
- How does understanding our future resurrection change how we view death, suffering, or our current struggles?

5. Provoking One Another

- The pastor emphasized provoking others to love and good deeds, not to anger. What's the difference?
 - Have you ever been "guilt-bombed" into something religious? How did that feel?
 - How can we encourage others in faith without being judgmental or pushy?
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Key Takeaways

1. **God's Timing is Perfect** - Don't rush others (or yourself) in their faith journey. The Spirit knows when someone is ready to go public.
 2. **Beauty Costs** - Following Jesus authentically will cost us something—comfort, reputation, finances, relationships—but it's always worth it.
 3. **We Have Hope** - Unlike those without Christ, we don't grieve without hope. We have confidence in the resurrection.
 4. **Our Citizenship is in Heaven** - This world is not our final home. We're waiting for imperishable bodies in God's presence.
 5. **Honor Matters** - How we treat the body (in death and life) reflects our values. Consider planning ahead with dignity and respect.
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Practical Applications

This Week, I Will:

Choose 1-2 to focus on:

- Have a conversation with a family member or friend about my faith in Jesus
- Write down my wishes for end-of-life arrangements and discuss with family
- Identify one area where I'm "hiding" my faith and pray about going public
- Encourage someone in their faith journey without guilt or pressure
- Study one of the resurrection passages more deeply for personal encouragement
- Evaluate one relationship where I'm provoking anger instead of love—and make it right
- Set aside time to thank God for the promise of a resurrected body

Reflection Questions for Personal Journaling

1. Am I a "secret disciple" in any area of my life? What's holding me back?
2. What would it look like for me to show "extravagant love" to Jesus this week?
3. Do I truly believe in the resurrection? How does (or should) this belief affect my daily life?
4. Who in my life needs to hear about the hope we have in Christ? What's stopping me from sharing?

Prayer Points

- For courage to go public with faith where we've been hiding
- For those grieving the loss of loved ones—comfort and hope
- For wisdom in handling end-of-life conversations with family
- For the Spirit to help us provoke one another to love and good deeds
- Thanksgiving for the promise of resurrection and eternal life
- For those in the group who don't yet know Christ—that they would come to saving faith

Closing Challenge

The pastor said: "When you finally come public with your faith, God's going to use you in some great and mighty ways."

This week, take one step out of the shadows. It might be wearing a cross, sharing your testimony, inviting someone to church, or simply being more open about your faith in conversation. Trust God's timing, but don't let fear hold you back forever.

Next Week's Preparation

Read the resurrection account in your favorite Gospel. Come prepared to share what the resurrection means to you personally.

"Beauty costs so much"—but the beauty of knowing Christ and making Him known is worth every cost.