

Laid in a Manger and Laid in a Tomb

The Burial of Jesus

Pastor Chris Engel — December 28, 2025

Mark 15:42–47 (NIV)

⁴²It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

● **Would you risk it all for Jesus?** (vs. 42-46; Luke 14:25-35)

“Joseph risked his reputation, his career, his wealth, his future, his family, and his religion for Jesus.”

What Lay Behind the Stone?

Luke 24:13-21 (NIV)

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

- A dead concept of God laid in the tomb.
- A dead religion laid in the tomb.
- A selfish hope laid dead in the tomb.

“For three days the pall of death hung over a lost, condemned, hopeless world.

The one ray of light had been extinguished.

Within the tomb lay the dashed hopes of a few that had caught a glimpse of glory.”

—Smith