

2023



THE BURIAL

IT'S NOT OVER SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

From the crucifixion to the tomb. Sometimes the situation looks worse than it is. You must understand God is working behind the scenes, divinely arranging all the pieces to turn the situation around. Joseph, a rich disciple, placed Jesus's body in a new tomb sealed behind a big stone. Yet, this didn't stop God's Word from working. The burial of Jesus is the ultimate example to prove, *it's not over*.

THIS WILL BE A RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

*Matthew 27:57-66 NIV - [57] As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. [58] Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. [59] **Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, [60] and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.** [61] Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. [62] The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. [63] "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' [64] So **give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day.** Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." [65] "**Take a guard,**" Pilate answered. "**Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.**" [66] **So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.***

- Every disciple is not poor. Some of us are meant to be kingdom sponsors. Whatever the kingdom needs, you will always have it to release.
- Pay attention to how the enemy keeps trying to shut you down. If you are still in the struggle, keep fighting.
- Nothing will stop you from being what God wants you to be. There is more in you than what people see.

THE BURIAL LOOK OF DEATH

1. Dead body - No breath, no pulse.
 - For many of us, there is no oxygen in our situation. Because there is no visible movement, it appears that your dream is dead.
2. Linen clothes - Appearance.
 - Your appearance is not always indicative of your current state. You can be underestimated by the way you look.
3. Spice - Smell coming out of pores.
 - What's happening in your life is coming out of your pores.
4. Tomb - Location.

- The tomb represents a permanent location. But God is moving you to a new location.
5. Stone - What is blocking you.
 - The enemy has released demons to roll a stone in front of your present location. What was meant to block you is giving God time to work behind the scenes.
 6. Seal - Final notices.
 - God goes beyond what it looks like. A seal can't stop the move of God.
 7. Guard - People.
 - The enemy will send someone to make sure you stay in your current position.
 - You have given too much energy to your enemies. Focus on the table God has prepared for you.

What is happening to you in this season?

BEHIND THE SCENE

THE WORD IS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENE

*Isaiah 53:9 MSG - They **buried him with the wicked, threw him in a grave with a rich man,** even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one word that wasn't true.*

- Generally, after a crucifixion, the body is left out for the birds to eat, but Jesus was buried in a tomb.
- What happens to everyone else won't happen to you.
- God is the author of your story and has already spoken a word over you.
- Some seasons are assigned to you. You cannot avoid them, you just have to go through the seasons.

Whose report are you going to believe when your pain doesn't match your word?

THE WORD IS AT WORK.

*Isaiah 55:11 NIV - So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will **not return to me empty,** but will **accomplish** what I desire and **achieve** the purpose for which I sent it.*

- Something is being accomplished and achieved behind the scenes based on God's Word.
- Based on the word spoken over your life, you are right where you are supposed to be.
- The Lord is always up to something, but He doesn't always allow you to see everything.

- Congratulations on what God's word is going to accomplish and achieve in your life.

What evidence do you have in your life that God is working behind the scenes? What happens when you believe God's word for your life?

NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL IT'S SPOKEN. WE WORK WITH OUR WORDS.

WORK IS BEING DONE BEHIND THE SCENE

1 Peter 3:18b-19 NIV - [18b] He was put to death in the body but **made alive in the Spirit.**
[19] **After being made alive, he went** and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits

- His body looked still, but His Spirit was still working.
- Behind the scenes, pieces are coming together. Your work will pay off.
- The unseen moves the seen. Pose now for what you will see later.

What kind of work are you putting in behind the scenes? How do you determine who you allow behind the scenes? What did God tell you to do?

DON'T GET STUCK IN A SEASON THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO TEACH YOU A LESSON.

WAITING IS SCHEDULED BEHIND THE SCENE

Matthew 20:18b-19 NIV - [18b] They will condemn him to death [19] and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. **On the third day he will be raised to life!**

- You're right on schedule. You have a designated, divine time to come out and can't stop your exit.
- You don't have a hand-me-down anointing, you have the same anointing. The same Spirit that raised Jesus is in you. If He got up, you got to get up.

What is your posture while you wait? What are you doing when you wait?

Romans 8:11 NIV - *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

- Don't ignore the quickening within you.

How do you react when you feel a quickening in your spirit?

HEAVEN IS ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR ARRIVAL.

THE CLOSING

Philippians 1:6 NIV - [6] *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

- God won't start something and not finish it. You have to know your progress and story.

What work has God begun within you? Have you taken note of your progress?

IT'S NOT OVER FOR YOU.

QUESTION

What is your posture as you work and wait for God to bring you out of your "dead" situation?

DECLARATION

God is working behind the scenes. It's not over for me!

PRAYER

Lord, I thank You for having the final say. You spoke Your Word over my life and are watching it to ensure it does what You sent it to do. While others counted me out, You were behind the scenes working it out. You have placed more in me than the totality of my mistakes. Because of You, I am alive and not dead. I was disregarded, but overcame because Your Word has always been at work on my behalf. Thank You for Your love, grace, and mercy toward me. In Jesus' name, Amen!