

Providential Provision

John 19:31-42

vs. 31, We do not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath.

- Johannine irony -> Those who have falsely convicted Jesus and forced the hand of Pilot for his execution are filled with piety concerning the observance of Sabbath.

Life and Death in the hands of Jesus.

- Victims of crucifixion would often take several days to die.
- Jesus dies very quickly, in only a few hours.

Why?

- Jesus chose to die when he had completed his mission.
- Jesus understood scripture and chose to die before the soldiers had an opportunity to break any of his bones.

The Law

Deuteronomy 21:23 you are not to leave his corpse on the tree overnight but are to bury him that day, for anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not defile the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Why does John focus on water?

John has talked about water throughout his gospel (1:31,33; 2:6; 3:5; 4:14; 5:2; 9:7; 13:5)
This is most highlighted in 7:37-39. Water has great symbolic value.

Is there a medical reason?

Yes..

But John's focus is on the spiritual reason.

The son has been glorified.

7:37-39 On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. **38** The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him." **39** He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Salvation is in motion.

Streams of living water will flow from deep within a person who believes in Jesus. The Spirit has been given.

Remember: Festival of Tabernacles (Shelters)

This is the context of Jesus speaking in the temple in 7:37-39.

- Together the two priests, one carrying water and one carrying wine, would ascend the ramp to the Altar and pour the liquid into silver funnels.
- This mixture of the water and wine at the altar symbolized the life and joy associated with the Holy Spirit.
- The water ritual took place every day for all seven days.
- The people each day reflected on the spiritual significance. Only God's Spirit could satisfy their souls and bring refreshment.

רוּחַ (Ruach) - breath, wind, spirit (energy) sustains life

Ruach Elohim - the breath of God

Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, is the one that is beginning the new creation.

Jesus is the firm foundation.

Jesus is the rock from which water abundantly flows.

(Moses strikes the rock - Exodus 17:3-7).

From the Lamb is the river of the water of life (Revelation 22:1)

As followers of Jesus we can now drink freely from this abundant river.

The glory of the cross is on full display in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' broken body has brought complete and total restoration.
It is finished. Jesus is enthroned!

vs. 35, Eyewitness testimony. What has been said and written is true.

vs. 36-37, So that the Scripture would be fulfilled

Psalm 34:19-20 One who is righteous has many adversities,
but the Lord rescues him from them all. **20** He protects all his bones;
not one of them is broken.

Passover connectivity (Jesus is the Passover Lamb)

Exodus 12:46 It is to be eaten in one house. You may not take any of the meat outside the house, and you may not break any of its bones.

Numbers 9:12 they may not leave any of it until morning or break any of its bones. They must observe the Passover according to all its statutes.

The pierced Messiah

Zechariah 12:10 "Then I will pour out a spirit[a] of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for him as one weeps for a firstborn.

vs. 38-42, From fear to courage.

People who have been following Jesus in secret because of fear.
The experience has been flipped.

Joseph of Arimathea - a member of the Sanhedrin (Matthew 27:57; Mark 15:43; Luke 23:51)

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless, many did believe in him even among the rulers, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, so that they would not be banned from the synagogue. **43** For they loved human praise more than praise from God.

- Something has changed. Joseph is willing to publicly ask for Jesus' body.

vs. 39, Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night, 3:2).

Also in Chapter 7 Nicodemus is present.

7:51, If you were following the law you wouldn't judge him until you heard from him and knew what he was doing.

- John, through his writing, is showing an example of those who were once paralyzed by fear going public with their faith.

Burial customs

His gift acknowledges Jesus as the true Messianic King.

Question: How have you reflected on the death of Jesus? In what ways do you need to ponder more deeply the reality and provision of salvation?

Like Joseph and Nicodemus, in what ways do you need to take steps of courage concerning your faith? How can you boldly and humbly speak with others about the goodness of Jesus?