

# Believing Jesus

## Matthew 27:55-28:10

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Throughout Matthew's narrative there are subtle indications that actions were taken in order to not overly offend the Jewish population under the control of Rome.

**vs. 31**, put his own clothes on him

- Very high likelihood Jesus was not without some covering on the cross. This was certainly not typical.

**vs. 58**, asked for the body of Jesus

- According to Jewish custom, Jesus' body, after his death, could not remain on the cross over night. Again, not typical. Usually the body of the crucified would just remain until nothing remained.

Isaiah 53:9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a *rich man* in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

A rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph

Luke 23:50-51 He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, **51** who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.

John 19:38 who was a disciple of Jesus

Joseph had learned from Jesus

**vs. 59**, Matthew give one very short sentence to the Jewish burial customs.

- Removal of the body from the cross.
- Washing of the body (condition would have been very bad).
- Each of the limbs would be wrapped and his entire body was encircled in linen cloth.
- The linen would have been soaked in roughly 75 pounds of spices to anoint the body.
- These spices (myrrh, aloes, incense -> John 19:39) would have been to mask the odors of death and prevent decay.

Matthew makes it a point to mention the women who had remained near Jesus through out the whole gruesome process.

**vs. 56**,

Mary Magdalene

Mary -> the mother of James and Joseph / this is Mary the mother of Jesus

Mother of the sons of Zebedee -> Salome (Mary's sister / Jesus' Aunt) James and John are her sons (disciples).

*Notice:* Matthew specifically mentions 3 women. However, many women were present (vs. 55). Among whom (vs. 56)...

Women are an absolute vital part to the story of the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus cared for and taught women.

Women followed Jesus with great sacrifice.

Women have always engaged in the mission of the church.

**vs. 61**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Jesus' Mom)

Mourning was not permitted for those executed under Roman law.

Broken but silent grief.

These women participated in the burial of Jesus (along with Joseph and Nicodemus) and saw the heavy stone roll into place.

*Side Note:* Nicodemus is mentioned in John 19:39.

We also know from John 7:50-51 that he was a Pharisee.

Both Joseph and Nicodemus

- Take great risk and act courageously (They are acting the very opposite of the majority of those in their position).
- They humbly serve Jesus in his death. They join the women in the burial process.
- It was costly obedience. Real money was spent. (Tomb, spices, linen, etc...)

What words could express the strangeness and sadness of peering into the lifeless eyes of the very Son of God!

Grieving in silence and fear.

When you are in the presence of death with one you love and respect the grief is overwhelming.

Where are you in your path towards obedience?

Does it seem crippling, dark & difficult?

Does hope seem lost?

Remember...the restoration of all things is still to come!

**vs. 62-66**, The Pharisees quick to complain before Pilate.

You were afraid when he was alive and now you are afraid when he is dead. You are ridiculous!

Notice Matthew's silence concerning the other 11.

**Psalms 2** -> The mission of heaven will not be stopped. No matter what.

**28:1-4**, Earthquake, stone is rolled back, the soldiers are made helpless.

**vs. 5-6**, Do not be afraid...He has risen!

He told you this would happen. Come, look, take it all in.

**vs. 7**, He is going to Galilee go tell the others (all of his disciples).

They listen to the angel and filled with great joy they run to tell the others.

**vs. 9**, Greetings! -> Jesus himself -> their love and grief was not silent to him.

He meets these women, before anyone else.

He uses these women to spread the truth of the gospel.

I AM ALIVE!!

They fall to their knees in worship.

Go tell the others. Go tell the family. Go tell all my brothers (all my followers).

*Why Galilee?*

The Messiah has come from a despised region and engages with a despised people.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit.

The message and mission of Jesus is perfectly consistent.

Jesus appears to the women first!

Their value in society was “poor”, their witness “worthless”, but the worth to Jesus...PRICELESS!!

Jesus is for all nations, not just the people of Israel. Are you prepared for the commission of Jesus recorded by Matthew?

Are you ready?

Do you know who Jesus is?

Do you understand the earth shattering reality of his resurrection?

Have you fallen to your knees in humble worship?

Are you moving in obedience along the narrow path of the kingdom?

The future is bright!!