

**I. Introduction: Jesus' body was taken down from the cross because of the Sabbath celebration, but Joseph and Nicodemus prepared it to give Him a royal burial.**

**II. The Death of the King (John 19:31-42).**

**A. The King's Death Requested (v. 31).**

1. The Jews asked Pilate to kill the prisoners and take them down from their crosses since the next day was the Sabbath, and they were concerned that they would defile the land.

**B. The King's Death Confirmed (vv. 32-34).**

1. The Romans broke the legs of the two other crucifixion victims to ensure that they died quickly, but they verified that Jesus was already dead by piercing His side.

**C. The King's Death Predicted (vv. 35-37).**

1. John gives sworn testimony that what he recorded was true. He was an eyewitness of Jesus' death and he could testify that He died on the cross.

**D. The King's Burial Prepared (vv. 38-40).**

1. Two of Jesus' disciples came to Pilate and requested to take Jesus' body and give it a proper burial instead of allowing the Romans to throw it out on a garbage heap.

**E. The King's Burial Provided (vv. 41-42).**

1. Jesus' body was laid in a new tomb, indicating that His body was to be treated with the dignity and respect that is normally given to a King of Israel.

**III. Conclusion: Jesus' death and burial are recorded by John so that there can be no doubt that Jesus did resurrect from the grave and overcame death to offer eternal life.**

## Questions About: The Death of the King

1. Why is the death of Jesus critical to Christianity? Why did John give so much attention to Jesus' burial? How does the emphasis of John's Gospel hinge on Jesus' death? (**John 19:35; 20-21**)
2. What did the Jews request to hasten the death of Jesus? (**John 19:31**) What did this reveal about their hypocrisy? Do you care more about your inner condition or outward appearance?
3. Why did the soldiers not break Jesus' legs when they came to Him? (**John 19:32-34**) What did they do to confirm that He was dead? How did the separation of water and blood confirm this?
4. Why did John testify that these things were true? (**John 19:35-37**) How did this fulfill John's reason for writing his Gospel? (**v. 35; 20:30-31**) How did God predict all of this? (**vv. 36-37**)
5. Who was Joseph of Arimathea? (**John 19:38-40**) Why did Joseph ask for the body of Jesus? (**Luke 23:50-51**) What did the Romans normally do with the bodies of executed criminals?
6. Who was Nicodemus? (**John 19:38-40**) Where else does Nicodemus appear in John's Gospel? (**John 3:1-21; 7:50-53**) How were his actions courageous? What did he sacrifice for Jesus?
7. Where did they place the body of Jesus? (**John 19:41-42**) Why is it significant that the tomb was new? (**v. 41; Matt 27:60**) Why was it important that the tomb was in a garden? (**v. 41; Gen 2-3**)
8. How was preparing Jesus' body a sacrifice for Nicodemus and Joseph? What did they risk by associating with Him? How can you live for Jesus with courage and sacrifice?

### Prayer

1. Pray that God would help you understand the profound significance of Jesus' death and burial.
2. Ask Jesus how you might sacrifice for Him the way that Nicodemus and Joseph did.