

Pastor Jim Jackson, 8/30/26
Days With Jesus, Day 58—The Son Sets
John 19:38-42

Jesus is DEAD on the cross

When Pilate heard all the men were dead, they were taken off their crosses (Mark 15:44). As the arrest, trials, and crucifixion happened within 8 hours, no family or disciples—who were far from home in Galilee—were ready to bury Jesus. For this reason, Jesus' body was in danger of being unclaimed and dumped outside the city or put in a shallow grave for criminals like the men he was crucified with. *The work of God is often unrecognizable to those without God.* As it was the ultimate dishonor for Jews to not be buried with family or at all, it is shocking no family, friends, or disciples were present at the humiliating end of Jesus' life to give him an honorable burial or prepare his body. Though he had poured his life into others, none of them were there at the end when he needed them most. *Don't quit even when those you supported aren't there to support you!*

Jesus is CLAIMED from the cross

After Jesus' death, he spiritually took the punishment of God for sinners and then proclaimed his victory in the spiritual realm (Luke 8:31; 1 Pet. 3:18-20; Jude 1:6). *While Jesus' body was defeated, his spirit was declaring victory!* Then Joseph, a wealthy member of the Sanhedrin who didn't approve of the condemnation of Jesus, courageously asks Pilate for his body (Is. 53:9; Mark 15:43). Perhaps from seeing his boldness, Nicodemus, who came to Jesus previously at night and was also part of the Sanhedrin, helps Joseph (John 3:1, 2). Both risked career and reputation by being connected to Jesus' burial. God should never be personally private but permanently public. *As he died for us so we must live for him!*

Jesus is BURIED in the tomb

First-century Jewish burial rituals consisted of cleaning the body, wrapping it in strips of linen (like Egyptian mummification without removing internal organs) and using spices and oils to mask decomposition. Being rich, Joseph's family tomb was near the city, and he wanted to give Jesus an honorable burial. In the ritual of *ossilegium* the body was put on a bench (*arcosolia*) where it laid for a year, then the bones were put in a bone box (*ossuary*) which was stored in a wall niche (*loculi*). No one thought Jesus was coming back. *Sometimes the deepest darkness is before the greatest dawn!*