

Dear Steadfast Omaha,

In John 19:31-42, we continue to see that the Father's sovereign plan of redemption for mankind has been fulfilled. All of what God said would happen hundreds of years earlier, did happen (Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Zechariah 12:10, Isaiah 53:9)! John included details in his account of the death of Christ to highlight the humanity of Christ and give medical evidence that Jesus really did die. In this passage, we also find two men at the cross caring for the body of Jesus.

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus from the cross, prepared the body for burial, and then buried Him in a new tomb. If you were not able to be there on Sunday, I encourage you to get online and listen to the message. There are so many wonderful details in this passage that we need to understand and learn from. Joseph and Nicodemus had to work quickly because they had to be done before the Sabbath began. Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus up until now. Nicodemus previously had come to Jesus at night (John 3). Now, both of these men are out in the light publicly demonstrating their faith in Jesus. Verse 41 says, "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid." How strange that in the place of death there is a garden. In the midst of death, there was evidence of life. In the midst of darkness, there was evidence of light.

As you seek to apply this passage to your life ask yourself these questions:

- **Do you believe in the sovereign plan of God?** God's sovereignty means that He is in control! In light of the sovereignty of God I should live with confident assurance and not in fear of circumstances. I also should respond to the sovereignty of God by following the example of Jesus and be