



## NG Study Guide: Mark 15:42-16:8 “From Grave to Glory” (10.3.21)

### Love God + know the Bible better:

1. Read the passage cited above, and try to answer the questions below before your group meets.
2. *Leader note: Please review the brief instructions for leaders at the bottom.*

### The Study

**Thesis:** The life of a follower of Jesus is marked both by what we are saved *from* as well as what we are saved *to*. In His death, Jesus saved us from our sin and freed us from its power over us. In His resurrection, Christ offers us eternal life with Him where we can live in glad submission to Him. To fully appreciate what God has done for us, it is imperative that we identify with Christ in both His death as well as His resurrection. We have the joy of not only saying the our God laid down His life for us, but also to declare the He is risen! Today, we will see the events immediately following His crucifixion and, most importantly, we’ll celebrate His glorious resurrection.

#### A. Jesus’ Burial [15:42-47]

##### [i] Joseph’s request [42-43]

*42 Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*

In this passage, we’re introduced to Joseph of Arimathea. Here, we learn he was a prominent council member, and in the Gospel of Matthew, we learn that he was wealthy and at some unspecified point became a disciple of Jesus (Matt. 27:56). However John notes that he followed Jesus in secret, for fear of the Jews. In the final hours of the day, Joseph makes a request to Pilate for the body of Jesus so that he might bury it.

##### [ii] Joseph’s courage [43]

*43 Joseph...coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*

Not only should we take note of the fact that Joseph approached Pilate, but also in *how* he approached him. We’re told in John 19:38 that though Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, he did so “*secretly, for fear of the Jews*”. But in this moment, Joseph didn’t come afraid or cowardly. Joseph was dedicated to honoring Jesus and came to Pilate with confidence. If we want to truly honor Jesus, we must do so boldly, confidently, and without fear of what others might do, say, or think. Joseph shows us two important lessons:

***1. Even if you’ve failed to stand for Jesus in the past, don’t let that be an obstacle from standing for Him in the present.***

**2. Choose faith over fear: Faith leads us to find hope. And in our hope, we find the courage to stand for Jesus in difficult times.**

**[iii] Joseph's act of honor [46-47]**

*46 Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. 47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid.*

Because of the timing, Joseph (and Nicodemus – c.f. John 19) couldn't properly prepare the body for burial. But that wouldn't stop them from doing what they could. They wrapped Jesus' body in fine linen, and laid him in the tomb. This tomb was likely an expensive one, and it was a great sacrifice for Joseph to give it up for Jesus. Despite setbacks like timing and the need to use a borrowed tomb, these men were determined to honor the Lord in the ways that they could. Likewise, we should be prepared to overcome setbacks as we seek to serve and honor our Lord Jesus and consider what sacrifices we can make to worship Him.

**B. Jesus' Resurrection and the Empty Tomb [16:1-8]**

**[i] Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Joseph, and Salome come to honor Jesus [1-3]**

*1 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large.*

According to Jewish law, no work was to be done on the Sabbath. These women watched as Joseph and Nicodemus buried Jesus in the early evening before the Sabbath and waited patiently until they were able to honor Jesus in their own way. As soon as they were able, they went to buy spices and headed toward the tomb. As they approach the entrance, they discuss how they might possibly roll away the stone at the entrance, only to find the stone rolled away. Despite their uncertainty of how to overcome their weakness, the women weren't deterred from worshipping and honoring the Lord. As we consider our weaknesses, we should recognize that God wants to work through our shortcomings to demonstrate His power and to help us grow.

**[ii] A Message of Jesus' Resurrection [4-6]**

*5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.*

As they walk into the tomb, the women see a young man - what we know now to be an angel (or messenger) of God. He tells the women that Jesus had been crucified and laid here, but He was no longer here. The angel wanted to assure the women that Jesus' death had actually happened, but that in great power, He had miraculously resurrected from the dead. Though we see people raised from the dead throughout Scripture, only Christ has resurrected into a new glorified body into eternity. And if we identify with Christ in His death, we can identify with Him in new life.

**[iii] A Call to Proclaim the Resurrection**

*7 But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." 8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

After they were made aware of Jesus' resurrection, the women were immediately given a task: Go and tell the disciples that Christ had risen and would meet them in Galilee. These women, astonished and

amazed, leave the tomb without saying anything to one another, and depart to celebrate the resurrection with the other disciples.

### **Study Guide Qs**

**Q1. What are ways that believers can show honor to Jesus?**

**Q2. How might believers grow in their courage to stand for Jesus?**

**Q3. What sacrifices can we make to worship and honor God?**

**Q4. How does new life with Christ motivate us to live for Him?**

### **“Disciples Who Dig Deeper” (optional or alternative study)**

1. Here is an interesting article on the importance of the empty tomb: <https://www.gotquestions.org/empty-tomb.html>.

2. Spend some time celebrating the resurrection by reading the other gospel accounts of the empty tomb in Matthew 28, Luke 24, and John 20.

### **Love your neighbors (inside + outside the group) better:**

1. Who would like to share how they sought to befriend or build relationship with their neighbors inside or outside the group?
2. Are there some needs that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbors inside or outside the group?

### **Disciples who make disciples:**

1. Who would like to share how they recently sought to make disciples?
2. Here is a disciple making idea to consider for the weeks ahead: Spend some time praying specifically for each of the neighbors on your street, and ask God to give you an opportunity to share His love.

### **Prayer [Loving God and Neighbors better]:**

Close the NG meeting with a time of group prayer. Encourage each participant to pray, but don't force anyone to pray. Encourage the group to keep their prayers brief so that each person can pray.

### **Leader Notes:**

1. **Seek to involve as many group participants as possible.** A good group discussion time allows people to get to know the passage and one another better.
2. **Feel free to pre-select the discussion questions that you want to focus on** in case there isn't enough time to answer them all.

**3. The “Disciples Who Dig Deeper” section provides some optional or alternative study and discussion activities.** As a group leader, you can choose to focus on the “Disciples Who Dig Deeper” section, include part of that section in your group meeting, or not use it at all. Try to give the group sufficient notice so they can be prepared for the meeting.

**4. Every time you meet consider asking:**

**a. What about this passage is particularly exciting, challenging, or confusing?** If a leader is uncertain about a question of doctrine or theology don’t hesitate to follow-up with your coach during the week. Then revisit the issue(s) when the group gathers next time.