

Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

Mark 15:42-47 | Jesus' Burial

December 26, 2021

Jeff

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Mark 15:42-47
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Last Sunday, we learned how Jesus endured the last three hours on the cross.

And we read how [God the Father] visited Golgotha.

His presence was immediately noticeable because He brought paralyzing darkness.

The Father's appearance brought a heaviness that symbolized His supernatural judgment on human sin.

We learned how The Father didn't come to punish those mocking Jesus.

Surprisingly, He came to punish Jesus Himself—all for the sake of ^{you & me} mankind to be reconciled back to God.

LW KEYPOINTS

1. When Jesus felt most abandoned by God, Jesus declared His continued trust in God.
2. Jesus gave his life. It was not taken from Him.
3. The veil was a visible manifestation of a spiritual reality.

And that reality is that you and me—we have no access to God because of our sin.

We learned that there is nothing that we can do or say that would pay the price required to undo what's been done.

Sin is not only costly—sin is deadly.

The apostle Paul tells us that, "*the wages of sin is death.*" (Romans 6.23)

The apostle James tells us, "*and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.*" (James 1.15)

There's a worship song that says it beautifully,

"I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross."

That's why God sent His Son to pay that price.

Jesus said, "It is finished."

Jesus did what He said He would do.

And we left our story from last week with God the Father tearing the veil of the Temple in two, from top to bottom.

Now there were a lot of veils and curtains in the Temple, but this veil was unique.

The tearing of this veil—which separated the holy place from the holy of holies—is stage one of the visible acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice by God the Father.

Stage two of the Father's acceptance is the resurrection, which we'll get to next Sunday.

That's all a review.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we will learn about the burial of Jesus Christ.

It's odd to say this, but today's text is Jesus' funeral.

We know from other parts of Scripture that Jesus is the King of kings, yet this funeral that we study today is anything but a ceremony for a king.

Let alone God's Son.

It's important to meet the players in today's text as well.

These men and women go well out of their way to honor Jesus when they think all hope is lost.

Why do they think all hope is lost? Let's find out.

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 15:42-47 CSB

Mark 15:33— *When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.,*

Mark 15:34— *And at three Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lemá sabachtháni?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?",*

Mark 15:35— *When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "See, he's calling for Elijah."*

Mark 15:36— Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, fixed it on a stick, offered him a drink, and said, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Mark 15:37— Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed his last.

Mark 15:38— Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Mark 15:39— When the centurion, who was standing opposite him, saw the way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!",

Mark 15:40— There were also women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

Mark 15:41— In Galilee these women followed him and took care of him. Many other women had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Mark 15:42— When it was already evening, because it was the day of preparation (that is, the day before the Sabbath),

Mark 15:43— Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God, came and boldly went to Pilate and asked for Jesus's body.

Mark 15:44— Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had already died.

Mark 15:45— When he found out from the centurion, he gave the corpse to Joseph.

+ **Mark 15:46**— After he bought some linen cloth, Joseph took him down and wrapped him in the linen. Then he laid him in a tomb cut out of the rock and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

+ **Mark 15:47**— Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus were watching where he was laid.

+ **PRAY:**
How I long for your precepts!
Give me life through your righteousness. (Psalm 119:40)

+ **EXEGESIS:**
Mark 15:42—When it was already evening, because it was the day of preparation (that is, the day before the Sabbath),

Notice right from the start that there is an urgency to Jesus' burial.

When it was already evening— God the Father not only ordained the timing of crucifixion last week, but today we'll also see Him take control of the burial as well.

It's important to know that the Jews had a different calendar than ours.

Their days started at sundown— rather than midnight.

So the timeframe here in verse 42 is Friday between 3pm and 6pm.

We know from last week, Jesus died shortly after 3pm.

The day of "Preparation" is appropriately titled because everything needed for the Sabbath had to be prepared the day before.

The Jews were not allowed to work or shop on the Sabbath day—which is our ~~call~~ Saturday.

Saturday is their day of worship. All this preparation must be done on Friday.

+ **Mark 15:43**— *Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God, came and boldly went to Pilate and asked for Jesus's body.*

Verse 43 is a significant verse.

Here we are introduced to a man named Joseph.

Mark tells us that he is from ^{A City} ~~an area~~ called Arimathea.

We don't have any solid evidence of where Arimathea is located.

Luke's Gospel does tell us that it's a Judean town (Luke 23:51)

This means it's a town in southern Israel.

Some of our early church fathers, Eusebius and Jerome, say that Arimathea was the OT city of Ramah.

Ramah is the birthplace of Samuel.

Ramah is also where Deborah judged Israel—but we don't know that for sure.

+ ^{Back to} **Mark 15:43**— *Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin...*

In other words, Joseph is an honorable man.

He has a good reputation. He's also powerful. He has authority.

How and why does he have authority?

Because he is one of the 70 members of the Sanhedrin.

The Sanhedrin is similar to our Supreme Court.

We don't know what role Joseph played in the Sanhedrin—priest, scribe, or an elder—regardless, he is a good man with a good reputation.

Not only that but look what verse 43 says...

Mark 15:43— ...*who was himself* looking forward to the kingdom of God,

Mark tells us that Joseph was more than a pious Jew.

He's unlike the other members of the Sanhedrin.

Remember now that the Sanhedrin is the elite group of religious leaders that falsely accused Jesus, arrested Jesus, beat, mocked and led Jesus to Pilate.

Both Matthew and John's Gospel tell us ~~both tell us~~ that Joseph was a covert Disciple of Jesus. (Matthew 27:57, John 19:38)

BTW, Joe was not the only disciple of Jesus ^{w/in} in the Sanhedrin.

We also know that Nicodemus visited with Jesus.

Nick also stood up questioned the Sanhedrin's legal proceedings against Jesus (John 7:50)

Mark 15:43— ...^{Joe} and boldly went to Pilate and asked for Jesus's body.

So it is late Friday afternoon when Joseph goes to Pilate.

This proves that Joe carries some weight socially and politically.

If he didn't, Pilate wouldn't have met with him.

Mark says that Joseph went "boldly."

Joe's actions are incredibly courageous. Why?

Because Joseph's request clearly aligns himself with Jesus.

Joe moves from being a secret disciple to a disciple.

- This huge! Why?

Joseph was running the risk of being expelled from the Sanhedrin.

~~That in itself is a huge deal.~~

The risk becomes even more elevated because there was absolutely nothing in it for Joe now.

Jesus was dead. The dream was over—so everyone thinks.

Several questions come to mind regarding Joe's boldness here at this moment.

1. Do you think Pilate was in a particularly good mood after the morning he just had with the Jews?
2. What do you think Joe's Sanhedrin buddies would have thought about his request to Pilate?
3. Can you imagine what Pilate was thinking?

The irony of the Jews demanding Pilate ^{to} crucify Jesus in the morning—

And now a Jew from the same exact group asked for his body so that he can give Jesus a proper burial in the afternoon.

No wonder Pilate hated the Jews. He couldn't figure these guys out.

"Wasn't it your group that blackmailed me into crucifying this man after I told you guys time and time again that He was innocent?"

So yes, this request took incredible courage and boldness from Joseph of Arimathea.

We learn a little bit more detail from Luke's Gospel.

+ **Luke 23:50/51**— There was a good and righteous man named Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin, who had not agreed with their plan and action.

This is a very good lesson for us today.

We too must be careful not to paint people or groups of people with a broad brush and label them with these man-made labels.

We paint people with that brush today, don't we?
How do we do that today?

Those Catholics, those liberal Lutherans, and Methodists.

No dear friend, we have to be very careful.

Because we don't want them doing that to us.

Back to...

+ **Mark 15:43**— ... ^{for} and boldly went to Pilate and asked for Jesus's body.
Most of the time, the Romans would let the bodies hang on the cross for days.
Now, usually, a relative or close friend would have requested the body.
ON OCCASION—

But apparently, the mother of Jesus was so distraught she couldn't make a decision.

All of Jesus' male disciples but John had fled.

Everyone who is associated with Jesus is completely and utterly unprepared.

No one thought ^{through} Jesus' burial ~~through~~.

This is an unexpected moment of crisis.

If somebody doesn't step up and lead—if someone doesn't do something quickly, Jesus' body will be treated like a homeless criminal. — Even worse, A Pagan.
 Because it was the day of preparation, Pilate agreed to take the bodies off the cross quickly
 ↓
 Break the legs.
 The soldiers are getting ready to drag the body away and throw it into the garbage dump outside Jerusalem.

The garbage dump was called Gehenna, which Jesus used as an illustration for hell.

So it's here at this moment, in God's providence, where Joseph of Arimathea takes the initiative and asks Pilate for the body to prevent that from happening.

How does Pilate respond to Joe's request?

Mark 15:44— Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had already died.

Why was Pilate surprised?

Death by crucifixion typically took two days or more.

That's the whole point of crucifixion—to die painfully and slowly so that people would not commit crimes or rebel against Rome—crucifixion is a deterrent.

Back to...

Mark 15:44— *Summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had already died.*

So Pilate makes Joseph wait.

Can you imagine what was going through Joe's mind as another soldier walks a mile to Golgotha, summons the Centurion, and they have to walk another mile back?

Mark 15:45— *When he found out from the centurion, he gave the corpse to Joseph.*

The centurion finally shows up and confirms Jesus' death.

Mark 15:46— *After he bought some linen cloth, Joseph took him down and wrapped him in the linen. Then he laid him in a tomb cut out of the rock and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.*

We learned in verse 43 that Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple of Jesus.

Verse 46 proves it. How?

The Sabbath day starts in a few hours, and here we see a prominent Jewish leader not merely touching a corpse—he's handling it.


The Sabbath was a holy day, and touching a corpse was a very unholy thing to do. *especially hours before the Passover Meal. This disqualifies Joe from celebrating Passover.*
 Joe's action proves that he was not concerned about becoming defiled and missing the Passover meal.

Instead of preparing for the Passover meal, Joseph himself would be preparing Jesus' body for burial.

**KEYPOINT 1:**

When God changes our heart, we change our priorities.

The changes in our life are visible proof of what we say we believe.



Mark 15:46— *After he bought some linen cloth, Joseph took him down and wrapped him in the linen.*


Here, we see that Joe took great pains to give Jesus a proper burial.

John's Gospel is the only one that tells us that Joe was not alone. Look who shows up.


Is it Peter who promised he would never deny Jesus?

Is it the Sons of Thunder, James, and John, who asked if they could sit with Jesus on his right and left in His glory?


Let's see...



John 19:38— *After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus's body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away.*



John 19:39— *Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes.*



John 19:40— *They took Jesus's body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.*

Two things to note here.

1. It would have been nearly impossible for one person to take Jesus' body off the cross from a practical perspective. So we know that Joseph had help from Nicodemus.
2. Only kings were anointed with that volume of spices.

Back to...

Mark 15:46— *After he bought some linen cloth, Joseph took him down and wrapped him in the linen.*

Joseph is the leading character throughout this narrative.

He's the one who took charge of the situation.

That's why Matthew, Mark, and Luke don't mention Nicodemus at all.

Joseph must have been a very wise and compassionate man.

He had the emotional maturity to buy linen as he walked from Pilate's palace back to Golgotha.

Question: *Why did Joe only buy the linen? Why not also the spices?*

We have the answer in Nicodemus; It was Nic's job to buy the spices.

There is no way this is a coincidence.

Because there are no coincidences in the Kingdom of God.

These two men meet up, set a plan, and execute it, all to the glory of God.

The one thing Joseph and Nicodemus were not able to do was anoint Jesus' body thoroughly.

They do it properly - but not thoroughly.

They simply did not have time before sunset.

We'll see that issue come to play next week.

What they did do is this—as was their Jewish custom:

First, They had to wash Jesus' body, properly.

Secondly, they would have wrapped Jesus' body in that lengthy linen cloth, placing spices between the layers of the cloth.

The Jews did not embalm the dead—they only dealt with the outside of the body.

Finally, a face cloth was wrapped around Jesus' head.

Now, after all that was done, Jesus was prepared for a proper burial...

+ **Mark 15:46**— ...Then he laid him in a tomb [cut out of the rock] and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

John's Gospel tells us that this tomb was brand new and was in a garden close to Golgotha. (John 19:41)

The importance of the tomb being brand new is not a minor detail in this narrative.

It means that no one has ever been buried in it before.

Which then symbolizes the importance of Jesus being a king.

Matthew tells us the tomb belonged to Joseph himself (Matt. 27:60).

cut out of the rock—tells us what exactly what kind of tomb it was.

There were three main options for tombs in Israel

1. shallow graves,
2. sarcophagi (Sar-cough-uh-guy) which is a stone box that resembles a coffin
3. Caves like the one mentioned here.

Caves/rock-cut tombs were much more expensive than the other options.

This tomb was most likely Joseph's family tomb.

Mark 15:46— ... and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

Family tombs were used time & time again = rolling stone. Tombs used once = square rock
 Tombs cut out of the rock were closed by rolling a stone against the entrance to prevent thieves from stealing personal belongings.

Many times the dead were buried with their earthly belongings.

This could be either a large flat stone that looked like a large cylinder or disc.

Or it could have been a large rock that was rolled in front of the opening to the cave.

*

Jesus' burial fulfills OT Scripture.

Isaiah 53:9—He was assigned a grave with the wicked, (Gehanna) but he was with a rich man at his death,

The is a fascinating prophetic verse.

no one would have been able to fully comprehend the implications of it until after Jesus died.

Because the Romans planned to throw Jesus' body into Gehenna, and yet The Father disrupts man's plans so that His son would indeed be buried in Joseph's tomb, thus fulfilling Isaiah 53:9.

+ **Mark 15:47**— Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching where he was laid.

These two women are eyewitnesses to Jesus' burial.

They watched two strangers from the Sanhedrin no less, bury Jesus.

Jesus cast out demons from Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2).

Btw, no where in scripture does it say that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute

Mark has already told us in chapter 6 that Jesus had brothers named James and Joseph (6:3), so Mary is Jesus' mother.

The two Marys were also witnesses of the Crucifixion.

This is an important note for next Sunday.

+ **PREACH**

So is that the end of our story?

Jesus is dead and buried—*the end?*

Does Jesus die as a martyr?

Was Jesus a good man who taught good moral things? *And did a martyr's death?*

Is Jesus Christ in the same camp as Gandhi, Buddha, Dalai Lama and Mohammad?

NO!

Next Sunday we get to the heart of the Gospel.

Gandhi, Buddha, Dalai Lama and Mohammad are still dead.

Next Sunday is THE absolute most important part of the story—resurrection.

Why is it the most important part?

1 Corinthians 15:13— *If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised;*

1 Corinthians 15:14— *and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.*

In other words, if Jesus didn't walk out of His grave— after being dead for three days—

Then I'm a liar for everything that I've taught you through our study of Mark's Gospel.

I've been lying to you for nearly two years.
And not only that, you're a fool for believing me.

Why would I be a liar and you be a fool? Here's why—

1 Corinthians 15:17— *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.*

Dear friends, if Jesus doesn't walk out of that grave—we've all been lied too—and there is no hope for eternal life.

There is no heaven—only hell.

So does Jesus walk out of that grave?

Does God the Father accept Jesus as a substitute for our sin and make propitiation?

You'll have to come back next Sunday and find out!

PRAYER

Father, we have a spoiler alert—some of us have read ahead—and we know, indeed, that you raised Your Son from the dead.

We will never be able to say “Thank You” enough.

And that’s why we come and worship.

Your Son is not a martyr—He’s not dead.

He’s very much alive—ruling the entire cosmos. *Coming back very soon*

~~And~~ may this message of Jesus being alive *drive us to our knees in repentance this week...*

May it penetrate our hard hearts...

May this message of Jesus birth, death and resurrection flow from our lips and be proclaimed to those people you place in front of us.

I pray for our God Intersections this week.

I pray that Your little church on the hill *is prepared for Your Divine Disruptions to our plans.*

And that you would give us the incredible privilege *to share this life giving message of The Gospel.*

In Jesus Name. Amen.

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