

Burial To Ascension Of Christ

Introduction

1. We have just completed a series of lessons entitled "Gethsemane To The Cross."
2. This new series of lessons is entitled "Burial To Ascension Of Christ."
3. The first lesson will be devoted to "The Burial of Christ."
4. The importance of the burial of Christ is often overlooked.
 - a. His burial was a confirmation of His death.
 - b. Without the death of Christ there could be no atonement.
 - c. Without the death of Christ we are still in our sins.
 - d. Without the death of Christ there could be no resurrection and we are without hope. (1 Cor. 15:12-19).
5. In subsequent lessons a study will be made of the resurrection of Christ and His appearances and His ascension into heaven.

Lesson 1 The Burial of Christ

1. The burial of Christ is recorded by all four gospel writers. (Matt. 27:57-61; Mk. 15:42-47; Lk. 23:50-56a; Jn. 19:38-42).
2. The gospel writers, in a very brief fashion, give many details relating to the events of Christ's burial.
3. The burial of Christ is a vital part of the gospel message. (1 Cor. 15:3,4).

1 COR 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Cor. 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

- a. The death, burial and resurrection of Christ are not the totality of the gospel, but they are the heart of the gospel.
- b. The gospel message is not "good news" apart from these three great facts.

Some Interesting And Important Facts About Christ's burial

1. Matthew and Mark report that the burial was at evening.
 - a. This was late Friday afternoon.

- b. The burial was soon after the death of Christ and Pilate releasing the body of Jesus for burial.
2. Mark affirms “it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath.” (Mk. 15:42).
 - a. The next day was the Sabbath of the Passover week.
 - b. This was “a high day” and the hypocritical Jewish leaders did not want it marred by the body of Jesus and the two thieves hanging outside the holy city - Jerusalem.
 3. All four writers introduce a man called Joseph of Arimathea.
 - a. Matthew states he was Jesus’ disciple. (Matt. 27:57).
 - b. John affirms he was a “secret” disciple of Jesus. (Jn. 19:38).
 - c. “He was a prominent member of the Council” [Sanhedrin]. (Lk. 23:50; Mk. 15:43).
 - d. Luke says Joseph was “a good and righteous man.” (Lk. 23:50).
 - e. He was “rich.” (Matt. 27:57; Mk. 15:23).
 - f. He was “looking for the kingdom of God.” (Mk. 15:43; Lk. 23:51).
 - 1) Like others most likely he was looking for a physical kingdom.
 - 2) Even Jesus’ apostles had this erroneous view as late as the ascension. (Acts 1:5-8).
 - 3) Christ’s kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. (Jn. 18:36; Lk. 17:20, 21).
 - g. We do not know the location of Arimathea. (Mk. 15:43; Lk. 23:50).
 - h. It was “a city of the Jews.” (Lk. 23:51).
 - i. It was probably located a short distance from Jerusalem, but this is not certain.
 - j. Luke stated he had not voted with the Council to condemn Jesus. (Lk. 23:51).
 - k. He also manifested great courage at the death of Jesus.
 4. Joseph had the courage to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus.
 - a. He put his reputation and life in danger.
 - b. He did not know how Pilate would react to his request. He could have been arrested and even imprisoned or put to death.
 - c. It was virtually certain he put his position in the Sanhedrin in jeopardy.
 - d. They would not take kindly to someone who identified himself with Jesus.
 - e. Some were excommunicated from the Synagogue if they confessed Christ. (Jn. 12:42).

JOH 12:42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;

5. Mark states “he gathered up courage” and asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. (Mk. 15:43).

MAR 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

6. Pilate granted the request of Joseph. (Matt. 27:50).

a. Pilate marveled that Jesus was “already dead.” (Mk. 15:44).

1) He confirmed Christ’s death with the Roman centurion that had been in charge of the crucifixion. (Mk.15:44,45)

2) These men were professional killers and they knew when a person was dead.

3) They had killed the two thieves on the cross and likely many others at other crucifixions.

4) It was only with the confirmation of the centurion that Pilate released the body of Jesus to Joseph.

5) The centurion had been in charge of Christ’s crucifixion.

6) He had acknowledged Jesus was righteous and He was the Son of God. (Matt. 27:54; Mk. 15:39; Lk. 23:47).

b. Luke indicates Joseph took down the body of Christ from the cross and “wrapped it in a linen clothe.” (Lk. 23:53).

c. He also laid Jesus in his “own new tomb.” (Matt. 27:59, 60; Mk. 15:45,46; Lk. 23:52-53).

d. It took much longer for most crucified ones to die on the cross.

1) Some lingered on the cross for days before dying.

2) Jesus died after a few hours.

e. The thieves had died quickly because their legs had been broken. (Jn. 19:31, 32).

JOH 19:31 Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

JOH 19:32 So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him;

f. Jesus had suffered much before the crucifixion, but His time on the cross was about six hours.

g. It is not known why Jesus died quicker than most, and it is vain to speculate.

h. The spear in His side after He was declared to be dead assured He was dead.

i. Neither the soldiers or Christ’s enemies questioned His death.

7. Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. (Matt. 27:59; Mk. 15:46).

8. He laid it in “his own new tomb.” (Matt. 27:60).

MAT 27:60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

- a. It was a “new tomb.” (Matt. 27:60).
- b. It had been “hewn out in the rock.”
- c. He was buried “with a rich man in His death” meaning the tomb of a rich man.
- d. This was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. (Isa. 53:9).

ISA 53:9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

- e. No one had been buried in that tomb. (Lk. 23:53).

LUK 23:53 And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain.

- f. This is important because no one could claim it was someone else who came forth from the tomb.

9. “He [Joseph] rolled a great stone to the door [entrance] of the tomb, and departed.” (Matt. 27:60; Mk. 15:46).

MAT 27:59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

MAT 27:60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

MAR 15:46 Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

10. John also tells us about Nicodemus.

- a. He mentions he came to Jesus by night. (Jn. 19:39). See Jn. 3:1,2.
- b. It is probable Nicodemus did not vote to condemn Jesus like Joseph, but if he did he is now seeking to show his repentance.
- c. John stresses what Nicodemus did for Jesus. (Jn. 19:39).

Burial of Christ

1. It was nearly dark when they buried Jesus. (Lk. 23:54).

2. Jesus was buried in the tomb of Joseph that was near the cross. (Jn. 19:42). The Sabbath was nigh and He had to be buried in a hurry to avoid violating the Sabbath. (Lk. 23:54).

JOH 19:42 Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Lk. 23:54 It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

3. Jesus was hurriedly buried to avoid violating the Sabbath that was the next day.
4. John states there was “a garden” in the place where He was crucified. (Jn. 19:41).

The Women

1. The gospel writers name the woman who came to the tomb.
 - a. Matthew reports Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” were sitting opposite the tomb. (Matt. 27:61).
 - b. Mark is a little more detailed and reports “Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph beheld where he was laid. (Mk. 15:47).
 - c. Luke gives even more details stating the women who had followed Him from Galilee came to the tomb, and they returned and “prepared spices and ointments. (Lk. 23:55,56; 24:1).
 - d. The women returned to the tomb “on the first day of the week.”
 - e. They may not have known about the action of Nicodemus. (Jn. 19:39, 40).

JOH. 19:39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.

JOH 19:40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

2. These devoted women had witnessed the crucifixion, but their love for Jesus had not diminished.
3. They were anxious to do all they could to honor Jesus and manifest their love for Him.

Saturday

Friday Night Our Time

Jewish Day Was From Sunset to Sunset

The Watch At The Sepulchre

Matthew 27:62-66

1. Matthew sets forth the Jewish leaders came to Pilate. (Matt. 27:62).

MAT 27:62 Now on the next day [Saturday], the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate,

2. They remembered the what Jesus had taught about His resurrection. (Matt. 27:63).

MAT 27:63 and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' See Jn. 2:19-21; Matt. 16:21-23.

3. They wanted guards placed at the tomb to avoid the possibility of the disciples stealing the body of Jesus and claiming a resurrection had occurred. (Matt. 27:64).

MAT 27:64 "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

4. Pilate gave them permission to place their guards there. (Matt. 27:65).

MAT 27:65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how."

5. The tomb was sealed and guards were placed there to guard the corpse of Jesus. (Matt. 27:66).

MAT 27:66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

- a. They sealed the stone by fastening a string or tape to the circular stone with wax or clay.
- b. It was a crime to break the Imperial seal.

Make It As Sure As You Can

1. The guards had an impossible mandate.
2. No one could prevent Christ being raised from the dead.
3. The Holy Spirit would raise His mortal body on Sunday. (Rom. 8:11).

ROM 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

4. The devil and all the powerful forces of men could not prevent His resurrection.
5. Additional studies will substantiate the body of Jesus was raised from the dead.
6. It was not a spiritual resurrection, but a bodily resurrection.
7. His body did not decay in the tomb. (Psa. 16:10).

PSA 16:10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

- a. This implies a miracle or a very short time in the tomb.
 - b. Jesus was in the tomb about 36 hours or perhaps a little less.
 - 1) He was buried about 6 P.M. Friday afternoon.
 - 2) He was raised very Sunday morning.
 - 3) Friday was counted as a day, Saturday was a day, and any time after sunset on Saturday would be counted as another day.
8. This meant Jesus could only be in the tomb a short time lest He begin to decay.

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