

CP - 4/2/23 - The WKND - Christ's Burial (Friday and Saturday)
John 19, Matthew 27

The Persons of the Trinity always work together - John shows Christ's sovereignty over his own death and burial - God's schedule is always right and on time!

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Divine Sovereignty in Christ's Burial (John 19)

***Jesus sets the events of his burial into motion and is in complete control over what happens next.**

***Christ dies at the exact moment he intends. (19:28–30, John 10:17–18)**

***Because it was mid-afternoon, the religious leaders rushed to remove the bodies before sunset. (19:31–37, Deuteronomy 21:22–23)**

***Pilate gives Christ's body to Joseph of Arimathea, who buries him in his tomb and fulfills prophecy. (19:38–42, Isaiah 53:8–9, Matthew 12:38–40)**

- Without a grave and proper burial, the bodies of the crucified were destroyed by elements or wild animals. But not this body! God had made a promise in Ps. 16:10 - And Is. 53:9! This body would not be abandoned physically or spiritual! This body would not decompose or decay or suffer corruption!

- The burial shows that Jesus actually died! He truly sacrificed himself for us!

TRUTH: Even though Jesus dies, he is in complete control of what happens next for his burial. Don't you think Jesus is really in control of your life & your death?

2. Human Responsibility in Christ's Burial (Matthew 27)

Three groups of people respond to fulfill the divine plan for Christ's burial.

- Circumstances give you the opportunity to act

***Joseph takes courage and shows loyalty. (27:57–60)**

Matthew: rich man from Arimathea, discipled by Jesus

Mark: respected member of the Council, looking for the kingdom of God

Luke: member of Council, good and righteous man, did not consent to have Jesus executed, looking for the kingdom of God

John: disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews.

- Allows the opportunity for discipleship - Joseph now identifies with Jesus in a much more public way! He steps forward into public light & identifies!

- How far does your loyalty to Christ go? To His death? To your death?

- They were more loyal to a dead Jesus than we are to the living Lord!

- Joseph died to prestige, popularity, wealth, future. Jesus meant more!
- 75 pounds - anointed for a king
- Joseph and Pilate! The cross and the body of Jesus draws out our allegiance and loyalty! **Alistair Begg**: "Joseph said, that's it. I will go to Pilate! I will ask for the body. I will do whatever it takes. I failed to honor him in his life. I will not fail to honor him in his death!"

***The Jewish leaders show hypocrisy and hatred. (27:62–66)**

- *Enter Pilate's quarters after refusing to the day before.
 - They don't enter Pilate's quarters so they can eat Passover. Don't enter while people watch Then after Passover, they meet with Pilate in private. They don't break these laws while falsely accusing and killing the Messiah! Strain a gnat and swallow a camel!
- *Sadducees and Pharisees unite together in nothing but hatred of Christ.

***The women show faithfulness and service. (27:55–56, 61)**

- Mary Magdalene - seven demons (Luke 8:2) Jesus changed her life!
- Mary, wife of Clopas - Jesus' aunt (Mary's sister - John 19:25)
- Salome - wife of Zebedee, mother of James and John
- God raised up these women as the first witnesses of the resurrection!

Alistair Begg: the Gospel touches the heart of the rich and poor - Luke 4:18
 - the ones who would announce it are the same. They would announce it to both! Be equally concerned for both!

TRUTH: How we respond to Jesus matters. Circumstances reveal our heart attitudes toward Jesus. How have you responded to Jesus?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you from the the Bible passage and sermon?
2. How does Jesus show his control over his own death and set into motions the events of his burial? How is this truth so comforting and yet challenging?
3. Why did the religious leaders want the body to be taken down so quickly? What prophecies did they, Pilate, and Joseph fulfill unknowingly?
4. Why is it important to see how Joseph, the religious leaders, and the women all respond without consciously knowing of God's invisible plan? Is it true that circumstances reveal our hearts? Discuss why. Which response stood out to you? Discuss the different groups and responses.
5. Pray for each other for continued trust in God's plan and timing of our lives. Pray for a renewed commitment to God's will and faith in His promises and wisdom. Ask each other what you are looking forward most this week in our celebration of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.