

Who is Jesus?: Buried

John 19:38-42

Introduction

The People

- Joseph of Arimathea
 - **Matt.27:57** – Wealthy
 - **Mark 15:43** – Member of the Sanhedrin
 - **Luke 23:50** – Good and upright as a follower of Christ
 - Was a disciple, but in secret due to fear
 - Something happened
 - Went boldly before Pilate
- Pilate
 - Willing perhaps due to his belief in Christ's innocence
 - An instrument of God...still
 - **Acts 4:27-31**
- Nicodemus (only in John)
 - **John 3:1-21**
 - **John 7:45-51**
 - Jewish teacher – priest / rabbi / Pharisee probably part of the Sanhedrin as well
 - Formerly at night inquired of Jesus
 - Something happened
 - Evidence of being “born again”
 - NOW in daylight associates with Jesus
 - Very risky because for the Jew Christ had been insubordinate and a heretic
 - Counted the cost in reputation and worldly wealth
 - **A Mighty Fortress** by Martin Luther,
“That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill:

God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.”

- Christ
 - Placed in a tomb for 3 days (Jews count each day as part of the whole – Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
 - **1 Peter 3:18-20**
 - Peter is speaking of suffering leading to a discussion on Christ's finished work providing the cleansing that baptism symbolizes.
 - The Spirit of Christ preached to those spirits (now in prison) through the person of Noah
 - OR...proclaims victory to fallen angels
 - No place for His preaching to those who died in the flood (no where in scripture is this supported either through narrative or theology)
 - Died physically
 - Died spiritually (in a sense) on the cross
 - Alive in the Spirit as we will be one day

The Process

- Bound in linen cloths
- Anointed with spices
- According to Jewish custom

The Place

- In a Garden
 - Usually the crucified (after hanging for days) would be put even in mass graves
 - Place of peace
- Nearby New Tomb
 - Wealthy landowner (word for garden – plantation)
 - Gardener (Jn.20:15)
 - New and unused
 - Near the cross, after having satisfied all that God's righteousness required of Him

The Purpose

- Fulfillment of Scripture
 - **Isa.53:7-9**
- The Day of Preparation
 - This is the cause of laying Jesus near
 - All of the work was to be completed on this Day – when Sabbath arrives, no work is to be performed
 - Man's attempt to keep earning righteousness
 - God's work in Christ was done
 - **Isa.53:10-12**
- To Come to Life
 - The Day of Preparation leads somewhere – death and burial gives way to resurrection and life!
 - **John 12:24**
 - **Col.1:18**

The Application

- Our courage to follow Christ is now challenged!
 - These men had not experienced the resurrection to prove their stance and actions! We have. Yet we cower. We conceal our sin and justify our sinful actions so we don't lose face!
 - We remain silent at work hoping not to lose bonuses, incomes or a sale.
 - Where do we stand? IF the fear remains, being a true disciple is in question.
- Unbeliever, revisit the words of Christ to Nicodemus (**John 3:1-21**)
 - You must be born again by God's grace
 - You must be cleansed by Him (water) and given new life, having your sin atoned for (blood)
 - You must believe that Jesus is the Christ.
 - You must see the effects of the Sovereign Spirit of God blowing over you - letting the loves of this world go, publicly associating with Christ and His people, and behaving in a way distinct from the world and distinctly His.