

HOME CHURCH SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

MATTHEW 27:57-66 • SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Last Days

The Still Buried Body but Active Person of Jesus

WARM-UP

Where would you like to be buried? Have you made provision or thought about the funeral?

1. Jesus provided for the care of His mother (Jn. 19:26). But in the end for His own burial He relied on the spontaneous charity of people not that close to Him. Mt. 27:57-60. This is unusual. **Why did He burden others with His own burial?** Might Is. 53:9 be a partial clue?
2. Who would you expect to be at Jesus' burial? What are some reasons that did not happen?
3. What are the big surprises at who is doing the burial of Jesus? Read Mk. 15:42-43, Jn. 19:38-42. What does this tell you - about these men? - about the workings of God? - about Jesus Himself?

Read this Summary of What Jesus Did and Did Not Do When He Died

Jesus dying on the cross drank the full cup of the wrath of God for us. His substitutionary death paid our debt in full. His saving work was finished. Jn. 19:30. There was no hell for Him to suffer beyond the cross. In the instant of His death He committed His spirit to the Father. (Lk. 23:46). As the God/Man he visited Paradise that very day (Lk. 23:43) with the believing thief on the cross as He had promised. This is the place of the Old Testament righteous dead before Jesus' resurrection changed it to heaven. Any visit by Jesus to the realm of the dead (Hades) was not for suffering but ministry in Paradise (Abraham's bosom) with Old Testament saints. They would hear from Jesus' own mouth the good news that salvation was complete! The other part of Hades, (Gehenna) the place of suffering, Lk. 16:22 would hear this victory proclaimed to God's people by the God they reject - 1 Pet 3:18-19.

Jesus was there until He was reunited with His body in resurrection life. In the same way now all believers who die are joyously with their Lord along with the rest of the church until the resurrection of their bodies. "Absent from the Body Present with the Lord" 2 Cor. 5:8. 1 Thes. 4:14-18. We are told to "Encourage each other with these words."

CONCLUDING CHALLENGE

4. Our Great High Priest walked this path before us and was joyously alive and active with believers even while His body was lifeless and buried. Discuss how this truth applies to us as we lose loved ones or face anxiety about dying and being buried.
5. Take time as a life group to pray for those you know who have recently lost loved ones or are facing the last stages of life. Are there acts of kindness, presence or care you might also do?