

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 21, 2021

MATTHEW 27.57-66

INTRODUCTION:

1. Just hours after Jesus *“yielded up His spirit”* (Matt. 27.50), Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus and buried it.
 - a) Joseph was a prominent council member (Mark 15.43; cf. Num. 11.16,17), who *“had not consented to their decision and deed”* (Luke 23.50,51; cf. Matt. 27.1; Luke 22.66)
 - b) Joseph was a secret disciple of Jesus (Matt. 27.57; John 19.38), who was *“waiting for the kingdom of God”* (Mark 15.43).
2. **MATTHEW 27.58,59:** *“This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.”* This was not Jesus, but His body. Not Him, but “it” (Matt. 27.59,60; cf. 2 Cor. 5.1-5)

I. THE BURIAL OF JESUS

- A. Burying Jesus involved a four-step process. (Matt. 27.57-61)
 1. Step One: Taking the body down. (Matt. 27.59)
 - a) Taking down the body of Jesus would have been a delicate process.
 - b) Joseph himself removed the body of Jesus from the cross. (Mark 15.45,46)
 2. Step Two: Wrapping the body. (Matt. 27.59)
 - a) The linen that was used was expensive. (Mark 15.46)
 - b) Wrapping the body was not one long strip but consisted of *“strips of linen with the spices as the custom of the Jews is to bury”* (John 19.39,40)
 - c) Who else was there to help with the burial? (John 19.39; cf. John 3.1-3; Acts 26.5)
 3. Step Three: Laying the body in the tomb. (Matt. 27.60)
 - a) Where was the tomb located? (John 19.41,42)
 - b) It was a new tomb *“which he had hewn out of the rocks”* (Matt. 27.60)
 4. Step Four: Rolling the stone in front of the tomb. (Matt. 27.60).
 - a) It was a *“large stone”* (Matt. 27.60)
 - b) It was a heavy stone. (Mark 16.1-3)
- B. The treachery of the Sanhedrin. (Matt. 27.62-66)
 1. There was a characterization. (Matt. 27.62,63; 16.21)
 2. There was a concern. (Matt. 27.64)
 3. There was a command. (Matt. 27.65,66)

II. THE BURIAL WITH JESUS

- A. **ROMANS 6.4:** *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death”*
 1. The purpose of baptism: To separate us from our sins. (Rom. 6.1-3)
 2. The process of baptism: It is a burial, an immersion. (Rom. 6.4)
 3. The product of baptism: We now walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6.4)
- B. **COLOSSIANS 3.12:** *“buried with Him in baptism”*
 1. Our conversion is compared to circumcision. (Col. 3.11)
 2. Our conversion is compared to a burial. (Col. 3.12)
 3. Baptism is an act of faith. (Col. 3.12)