

Matthew 27:57-66 Out of the Shadows

The Crucifixion of Jesus had a Profound effect on those who were THERE and those who were connected to Jesus

A) For *Mary* His mother - the Prophecy of Simeon came true....

Luke 2:34-35 ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

B) That day Her heart was pierced – her son on the cross!

**C) For the *Disciples of Jesus* – time of confusion-
1) Three yrs of hopes and dreams GONE! – Shattered – they had left everything to follow Christ!**

**D) For *Peter* – Anguish – Denied his Lord!
1) Guilt and Anguish – he let Jesus down – He so disappointed in himself**

For The thief on the Cross – Eye opening – He becomes a believer

A) For the *Centurion* – A professor of Christ – truly this was ...God

B) For the religious leaders – FINALLY – done with this nuisance

C) But for two religious leaders – It meant Boldness to finally come out of the Shadows

READ THIS ACCOUNT IN ALL 4 GOSPELS

Matthew 27:57 ⁵⁷ Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. ⁵⁹ When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb,

and departed. ⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

Mark 15:42 ⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joseph observed where He was laid.

Luke 23:50-56

⁵⁰ Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. ⁵¹ He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. ⁵⁴ That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near. ⁵⁵ And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹ And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So there they laid Jesus, because of

the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby. John 19:38-42

John tells us Nicodemus accompanied Joseph of Arimathea.

A) Both Nicodemus and Joseph were secret disciples of Jesus.

B) Joseph of Arimathea – he was a member of the Sanhedrin as was Nicodemus

C) Two **powerful and important men** – both wealthy

1) Tradition says Nicodemus was the 3rd wealthiest in Jerusalem

D) Both men of Power and Position – Nicodemus was **the teacher in Israel**

E) These two men – who have been in the shadows as it relates to Jesus/ - secret admirers/ followers/

1) Oddly they choose this time to make their affections for Christ Known

What were they risking by burying the body of Jesus? Everything!

A) They could potentially have been sentenced to death for siding with this One who was crucified.

B) They could lose their prominent positions in the temple and in society if they were discovered to be sympathizers of this Rabbi from Nazareth.

C) And According to **Numbers 19:11** Both would have been ceremonially unclean for 7 days for touching the dead body of Jesus!

D) Which would have meant they were unable to celebrate the Passover.

They RISKED being cut off from families

A) **Losing their wealth**- no one would want to do business w/ them after this! { All for a dead body

B) Somehow and for some reason they decide I would rather be Jesus disciple –

1) than a member of the Sanhedrin

C) Rather be Jesus disciple than have all the wealth in the world { They had stood by quietly in the who **trial/ beating & death / but no more – out of the shadows**

Joseph is mentioned in all four gospels

A) Told he was a just man

B) A man seeking the kingdom of God

1) **A member of the Sanhedrin – Jewish ruling council**

C) He didn't agree with the Sanhedrin's decision to Crucify Jesus

D) Mark 15:43 – **He is referred to as a Honorable Council member** – KJV –

1) Josephus notes that in the entire history of the Sanhedrin only 14 people were given that title

He is also very rich –

A) From Arimathea – Hill country outside of Jerusalem –

B) But he had purchased a burial spot inside Jerusalem

C) **Beautiful garden area** – Where he was going to have a tomb constructed for his entire family

D) Now a normal rich man would just buy a cave – to use for a tomb –

1) **A very rich man would have a cave made { carved**

E) Interesting about this site – **A tomb that was hand carved out of solid rock**–

1) Big enough for an entire family

But when British scientist did research on this tomb they noted some interesting finds

A) The tomb was never completed – there is only a spot for one person. { **Big enough for several people**

B) Soil tested And there are no signs of decomposition – it seems that it is a tomb that was never used

C) Actually used for – Only 3 days!

Imagine Joseph thinking about Isa 53:9 **He made his death with the wicked – but His grave with the rich**

A) Imagine him thinking was that written about me I am the rich man – providing his grave

B) Imagine him determining I would rather be a part of Prophecy – than the Sanhedrin

C) Imagine these **two wealthy men climbing** up a ladder w/ a pry bar – prying out the nails

1) Rich men didn't do that sort of thing

D) Them getting all bloody themselves – DEFILED

1) Carrying his lifeless body – to the tomb

E) **Preparing it for burial** – Wash the wounds – body would be cleaned and bathed

1) Pull out the thorns from his head – comb the hair

Imagine Nicodemus lugging thru the Streets of Jerusalem 100lbs of Spices/ fragrant herbs

A) Someone asking Nicodemus where are you going with all those spices and fragrant herbs

B) He responds to a Burial { Someone commenting – that is enough for a King ! { **EXACTLY**

C) He is the King

Nicodemus is mentioned 3 times in Scripture

A) 1st John 3 – THE TEACHER – BORN AGAIN

B) Good teacher sent from God.....things you do

3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7

C) Had a Physical birth – Need a spiritual birth

D) **Phrase no doubt haunted him!** – Could get away from it – Born again – Spiritual

E) In John 7 Nicodemus speaks up in protest in a plot to kill Jesus

1) then there in John 20 – he comes out of the shadows – seen carrying 100lbs of spices

According to Jewish tradition there was a Nicodemus Ben Gorion – who is the brother of Josephus the Jewish Historian

A) Said before he is the 3rd richest man in all of Jerusalem

B) There is a record of the marriage of his daughter that was one of the most extravagant weddings Jerusalem has ever seen

C) But he would lose everything because of his DECISION to follow Christ .

His daughter would be seen picking Barley off the floor of a barn – reduced to poverty.

A) Tradition tells us the Rabbi – Gamaliel who trained Nicodemus and later Paul – took Nicodemus in and cared for him

B) Because he had been cut off from everything

Jim Elliot – He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

C) Gain more than ever give up

1) Forgiveness/ Peace / life/ Joy / Destiny

What Drives these two men out into the open?

A) The Cross – He died with such dignity

B) Like the Centurion – they no doubt were moved by his sense of being in control

C) They no doubt heard about the Veil in the temple being torn in two from top to bottom.

D) Book of Acts tells us that there were actually many priests who came to faith in Christ

Also the normal Population of Jerusalem normally was about 250K –

A) by the end of the book of Acts there were 100K believers in Jerusalem

Population of Vista – 100K – OCSD 175K

A) Imagine 125K Radical followers of Christ in these two cities

B) No wonder the Book of Acts says they turned the world upside down.

C) The Impact of the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Come, and see the victories of the cross. Christ's wounds are thy healings, His agonies thy repose, His conflicts thy conquests, His groans thy songs, His pains thine ease, His shame thy glory, His death thy life, His sufferings thy salvation. - Matthew Henry

"All of heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, hell afraid of it, while men are the only ones to ignore its meaning." — Oswald Chambers

Now as these two men come out of the Shadows something interesting happens with their fellow religious leaders

62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, 63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

This interesting. Jesus' own enemies remembered that Jesus predicted his own resurrection.

A) And yet Jesus' friends had forgotten that he predicted his own resurrection.

B) The **skeptics believed, the believers were skeptical.**

C) Every time Jesus spoke about his impending arrest and death & resurrection, the Disciples didn't get it.

1) They didn't remember it.

D) That's why they were so desponded when he died and said, "Ah, that's it. Let's go home."

E) You don't have one of the disciples saying – **NO wait remember what he said.....,**

And Yet the religious leaders are taking all precautions possible to block any resurrection claim

A) The last deception will be worse than the first.

B) They understood the power that a claim of Resurrection would have.

C) Give us a guard!

65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

"Okay, here take a guard. I'm granting you a Roman guard between 10 and 16 well armed men.

A) These were the best of the best – Delta Force – Navy Seal team 6

B) The stone that Jesus had rolled or that the soldiers rolled in front of the tomb that Jesus laid in was about two tons.

1) See them in Israel

C) **They're round. They're rolled into a channel.**

1) The channel is on an incline so that the stone is rolled down into the channel

D) and the only way to move a two-ton stone is you got to move it up hill so it's pretty secure.

1) It can be moved, it's usually with the help of the leverage of wooden implements to move it up and lots of people.

So there is between 10 and 16 Roman soldiers trained, well-armed men, there is a stone and there is a seal.

A) Now a Roman seal, you'd have a clay pack on one side of the stone and a clay pack on the other side of the stone

B) Usually a signet ring or some kind of a stamp impression was pushed into the clay that bore the seal of the Roman government.

C) A rope was placed between the two seals and if anybody broke the seal it was death,

1) unless you had permission by the Roman government. You come and break the seal so they're making it secure.

D) It's armed, there are soldiers, there's a stone, there's the Roman seal and we're safe.

Now, what they did is a great favor for us because they simply underlined and underscored the fact of the resurrection.

A) They removed the ability for there to be a rumor that the disciples stole his body.

B) Because if somebody said, "The disciples stole the body," I say, "Well, let's see." There were ten to 16 well-armed Roman soldiers,

C) there was a two-ton stone rolled down hill into a channel, there were clay packs with the Roman seal death to any man who breaks them, "I don't think so".

D) Yeah, but he's gone." **What explanation do we have?**

WE will see this Weekend – these religious leaders paid the guards to say they were asleep

A) And that the Disciples stole the body

B) **Well if they were asleep – how do they know the body was stolen.**

C) It was a federal crime worthy of death for a Roman guard to be caught sleeping –

1) Makes no sense

D) These untrained fisherman took on these Roman commandos – Please.

Finally tonight we consider the plight of Pilate

A) Joseph and Nicodemus risked everything to gain Christ

B) And like anyone who does – they gained way more than they lost

C) Pilate – chose to hang on to his earthly position – prominence – power and possessions / prestige

What happened to Pontius Pilate?

A) According to history about a year after this, Pilate resigned.

B) Some say he was forcibly resigned because of an insurrection that happened up in Samaria.

1) he resigned and he went to Gaal.

C) The ancient Gaal is modern day Austria.

1) And at the enclave of Vienna, Austria he committed suicide.

D) The man who is face-to-face with Jesus,

1) the man who said, "What is truth" and then he left the room without waiting for a reply,

No doubt the incident of the Crucifixion and the news of the Resurrection – Haunted him

A) his wife warned him, "Leave him alone. I've had a dream about this just man."

B) But he wouldn't listen to his wife. And perhaps it haunted him and he took his own life.

C) He goes off the pages of history. We hear about him no more.

Question to you as we close, have you tried to set a guard over your life, over your heart against Christ?

A) Have you tried to seal up your mind and your thoughts every time somebody brings you to church or you get closer to the truth?

B) You have such a good way of marginalizing and fighting that up and pushing him away and setting a guard and sealing the stone and yet,

C) **the more you do that, he keeps coming back. And he taps on your heart and he says, "I'm still here.**

I love you. I want you. I will forgive you."

A) Someday you'll walk off the pages of history.

B) Will you end like Pilate or end up in heaven with Christ because you came out of the shadows

C) Nicodemus and Joseph – gave up a lot to go on record as followers of Christ

D) But they gained far more.

1) Always the case.