

II. Unlikely Servants: The Pharisees

So as evening approached, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, **a prominent member of the Council**, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Mark 15:42,43

He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. John 19:39

Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. John 19:38

Remember that Jesus was sentenced for blasphemy by the Jews and high treason by the Romans.

- Yet we see both Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus two powerful ruling class members one who is on the very council that convicted Jesus; they are taking the body down and washing it and preparing it for burial.
- Here for the 1st time they're willing to say out loud they were secret followers,
- When it's most dangerous they are very courageous.

What changed these two men's hearts?

3 Applications:

The Gospel of Jesus Christ makes you a person who understands we all need God's radical grace.

The Gospel will create the most unique community in the world.

The Gospel will change your identity.



Jesus' Burial; Unlikely Champions Mark 15:40-47

Compilation of all four Gospels:

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome, in Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. Mark 15:40,41

When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. Luke 23:48

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. 32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. 35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. 36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," 37 and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." John 19:31-37

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Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

Mark 15:44,45

He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. John 19:39-42

Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus' body was laid. Mark 15:46,47

Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Luke 23:55,56

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Matthew 27:62-66

I. Unlikely Eyewitnesses-The Women Disciples

At the end of all four gospels when you get to the climatic events, of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection... all the male disciples are gone

- In both Jewish and Roman culture, a woman's testimony had no legal status.
- Yet in spite of that fact, at the single most crucial moment of eyewitness testimony in human history, GOD DOES WHAT?
- God trusts a group of devoted women followers with the whole story, they become the key eyewitnesses to the greatest events in history.

What was God doing?