

THE GOSPEL OF MARK "Burial"

WOMEN POWER

- *They are long term followers of Jesus.
- *Mary Magdalene – she is mentioned in all four gospels in the resurrection story. She was delivered by Jesus in Luke 8:2
- *The other Mary most likely was someone that the church in Rome would have been familiar with.
- *Matthews account mentions the mother of James and John the sons of thunder.
- *This is the 1st century where woman had no rights, a society where woman where given no legal status, there testimony could not be submitted as evidence in a trial. But everything was go to come down to depend on what they had seen and heard – they are the ‘lifeline’ of the discipleship narrative.
- *Difference of men and woman. Woman love first and are able to keep their love longer than men. They are not gathering in hope of the resurrection but in hopelessness, the one whom they had devoted themselves to is now dead.

CRUCIFIED BODIES & JEWISH BURIALS

- *A crucified man could not be buried under Roman Law unless permission was given through a local magistrate.
- *Usually the crucified were often left to decompose on the cross as a warning to others who might oppose Rome. They were then thrown into a pile of other corpses or left on the ground for scavengers, birds and wild dogs, to dispose of.
- *In Judea there was an issue with bodies being left unburied. Deuteronomy 21:22-23. This meant in Israel the Romans would give them a quick burial in a mass grave.
- *Sabbath law prevented burial after sundown
- *The Jews considered burial of the dead – including even the dead of their enemies a ritual piety. 2 Samuel 21:12-14
- *People we laid in tombs or vaults. Nearly 1000 of these tombs found around Jerusalem. Some have body shaped depressions craved in the flat shelves. After the flesh of the corpse decomposed, the bones were removed and deposited in ossuaries hewed out beneath the niches, freeing the shelf to be used again. The burial caves were sealed by large, disk shaped stone that were rolled in channels in front for the opening, sealing ritual impurities within the tomb and keep animals and grave robbers out.

Mark 15:40-47 (NIV)

(40) Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. (41) 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. (42) It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). 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. (44) 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. (46) So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. (47) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

JEWISH BURIAL

- *Closing the eyes
- *Washing the body
- *Trimming the hair
- *Placing spices inside the shroud
- *Wrapping the body in the shroud

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

- *Joseph – Matthew 27:57-60, John 19:38 Luke 23:50
- *Joseph a ‘prominent’ means honorable and reputable as well as powerful. He was one of the 70 of the Council of the Sanhedrin.
- *No hint that he said anything during the trials but now in death he finally steps forward. Like the Centurion it was his death – how he died that brought Joseph out of the shadows. John 12:32
- *He went ‘boldly’ to approach Pilate to ask for the body and then to take it would expose himself.
- *Joseph asked for the body – “soma” which means a person, caring and tenderness. Pilate gave him the body – “ptoma” which means corpse or carcass is the Greek word.
- *Nicodemus—John 19:39-40—75 pounds of myrrh and aloes. The amount of burial ointments was typically used only for kings.

BURIAL OF JESUS

- *The tomb was brand new – Matthew 27:60, John 19:41, Luke 23:53
- *Isaiah 53:9 - fulfillment for his grave was planned to be with the wicked
- *He did not swoon on the cross – two eye witnesses here testify to his death. The Romans had crucified hundreds of thousands of criminals over the centuries while in power and not one story is found or one ‘surviving the cross.’

SECRET FOLLOWERS?

- *You cannot remain a secret follower forever. There comes a time when you have to burn your boats, cross the bridge. There must be a time to stand up and be counted. Romans 10:10-11, Mark 8:38, Romans 1:16

NOTES:

John 12:32 (NIV)

(32) But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

John 19:38 (NIV)

(38) Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

Mark 8:38 (NIV)

(38) If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."