

## **Mark 15:42-47 (NIV)**

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 Joseph saw where he was laid.

### **Last time we looked at the cry**

#### **I. Crowd**

#### **II. The Cry**

#### **III. The Council member**

- 1. Jesus endured agony beyond physical pain**
  - a. He endured the jeers of people**
  - b. He was separated from the presence of God**
  - c. When the price of sin was fully paid, He gave up His Spirit**
  - d. A soldier pierces His side**
  - e. The centurion declares, truly this was the Son of God**
  - f. Now that He's dead, there is a problem**

i. **What is going to happen to the body of the Lord?**

**I. The Council member**

1. Joseph of Aramithea

a. Who is this person that doesn't appear before or after this scene of the Cross?

i. **Matthew** tells us that Joseph was a disciple of Jesus

ii. **John**: he was a secret disciple of Jesus being afraid of the Jews

iii. **Luke**: he did not consent to what the council did and that he was waiting for the Kingdom of God

**2. Joseph means "addition"; "Let Him add"**

a. **Hebrew**: Jehovah has added

3. It's interesting that when everything is taken away, a name meaning Jehovah has added appears on the scene

a. Jehovah has added (Hebrew)

b. Let Him add (Greek)

4. The meaning signifies that God Has already added to a situation and made provisions

5. With the example of the council member, God will add

a. Hope (a significant role)

b. Help (Nicodemus)

1. Joseph took courage went to Pilot and requested the body of Jesus
  - a. He took a stand against the other council members risking his position
  - b. It's very difficult to be a prominent person in the eyes of the world and the eyes of God at the same time
  - c. One will either have the applause of men or of God
  - d. Now he's no longer in secret
2. Joseph found courage to do the right thing
3. I believe as he contemplated the Cross, he found this courage
4. Courage rises out of your heart in contemplating the sacrifice of our Lord
5. An unusual peace settles into your soul as you gaze on Him
6. Since Jesus did this for me publically, why am I ashamed of Him?
  - a. He's no longer a secret disciple
  - b. God is using him to bring honor to the Body of Christ & to fulfill prophecy that he will be buried with the wealthy

**A. Hope of an honorable burial**

1. Joseph's role is critical in this moment
2. He may be in a place of confusion, but his love for the Master moves him to be close to and take personal responsibility for the Body of our Lord
  - a. This is some kind of love
3. His role brings hope for Mary and the family
4. Hope that His body will not be thrown into Gehenna
  - a. All of these events happened so fast that no one had time to make any preparations
  - b. Galilee is far in the North
  - c. The sun is setting & it's almost Passover
  - d. To keep in accordance with the law, those bodies on the cross would be tossed out into the city dump
5. It seems like a hopeless and disgraceful situation
6. **Acts 14:17** He did not leave Himself without witness
  - a. God used a man named Joseph in the O.T to reveal the Character of Jesus who saved many lives
  - b. God used another Joseph at Jesus' birth
  - c. God is using a Joseph here at His death
7. **God has plenty of resources**

8. When things seem bleak and hopeless, God has resources to **ADD** & complete His will
9. **Hudson Taylor:** Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning... He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all... Depend on it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.
10. Couldn't God send angels to carry the Body of our Lord to a beautiful place?
  - a. In His wisdom, God wants to include His children in the process of building His kingdom
  - b. He doesn't need us to do anything, everything belongs to God
  - c. **It's our privilege to be co-laborers with God**

## **B. Hope that God is able to restore missed opportunities**

1. We're not sure if it was fear that caused him not to stand up to the 70 elders
2. Perhaps he feared for his position in society
3. Maybe he feared for his business
  - a. He's certainly taking a stand now

- b. He's experiencing a work of restoration
  - c. **Joel 2:25** "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten
4. Out of his obedience, God is restoring all of those missed opportunities
5. **Illustration:** By His sovereign grace, God can bring good out of our failures, and even out of our sins. J. Stuart Holden tells of an old Scottish mansion close to where he had his little summer home. The walls of one room were filled with sketches made by distinguished artists. The practice began after a pitcher of soda water was accidentally spilled on a freshly decorated wall and left an unsightly stain. At the time, a noted artist, Lord Landseer, was a guest in the house. One day when the family went out to the moors, he stayed behind. With a few masterful strokes of a piece of charcoal, that ugly spot became the outline of a beautiful waterfall, bordered by trees and wildlife. He turned that disfigured wall into one of his most successful depictions of Highland life.
- a. God is able to right the wrong
  - b. He's able to make something beautiful out of something horrible
  - c. Every sin and missed opportunity will be restored

### **C. Hope that God wants to use every believer**

1. Although his role may seem brief, it is significant to God
2. Every believer has a role to play in God's kingdom

- a. Such as Ananias with Saul of Tarsus
- b. Like Stephen who served tables
- c. The servant girl with Naamaan the Syrian leper
  
- d. There are no spectators in God's kingdom

### **3. What's the application for us here?**

- a. If you see a need and it's a concern to you, God may be calling you to play your part
  - i. No matter how big or small it may seem
  - ii. That's how you were wired
  - iii. Each of us has a unique gifting to participate
  
- b. Nehemiah who was comfortable in the palace & far from Jerusalem
  - i. A fire was in his belly about the state of his people
  - ii. His heart was to rebuild the walls
  
- c. It takes courage to do something not very popular & where there is little help
  
- d. It takes a glancing at the Cross and seeing the savior high and lifted up
  
- e. As he prayed and fasted before God, the need to act was getting stronger
  
- f. God used him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

- g. Take a moment and lift up your eyes to God and tell Him you don't want to miss any more opportunities

#### **D. Help from Nicodemus to carry the body and honor God**

1. Joseph is not called to do it all alone
2. No believer is ever called to serve alone
  - a. Moses didn't do it alone
  - b. Nehemiah didn't do it alone
  - c. Paul had many helpers
  - d. In our journey of faith, God will send us help
  - e. Help to conquer the task ahead
    - i. Nicodemus (conqueror)
3. **If you are helping,**
  - a. **Do it with a good attitude**
    - i. They worked together seamlessly
      1. Indicating their attitudes must have been good
  - b. **Bring solutions to the problem**
    - i. Nicodemus brought 100 lbs of spices
    - ii. Joseph brought the linen cloth
    - iii. A tomb was prepared in advance for this event



iv. In doing this, they honored the Body of Christ

4. If you need help, God will provide the necessary help
  - a. If God permits that you stand alone for a season, you'll experience what Paul experienced:
  - b. **2 Tim 4:16** At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.  
17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me...
5. It's amazing how with such a brief sad story, God highlights hope and help
6. This is good news for us
  - a. If we're struggling and things look bad,
    - i. Hope and help are on the way from God
7. Do your part and God will do the rest