



Mark 15:40-47

Buried By The Hand Of God

- I. Introduction:** Jesus' body was taken down from the cross because of the Sabbath celebration, but Joseph and Nicodemus prepared it to sovereignly fulfil Scripture.

- II. Buried By The Hand Of God (Mark 15:40-47).**
 - A. The Committed Women (vv. 40-41).**
 - 1. The women witnessed Jesus' death and burial, thus confirming that God sovereignly fulfilled the Scriptures regarding His Son.

 - B. The Courageous Disciples (vv. 42-43, 46).**
 - 1. Joseph of Arimathea came to Pilate and requested to take Jesus' body and he buried it in his family tomb, fulfilling God's word.

 - C. The Cautious Governor (vv. 44-45).**
 - 1. Pilate was shocked that Jesus had died already, so he questioned the centurion to make sure that Jesus was dead and gave Jesus' body to Joseph.

 - D. The Confirming Burial (vv. 46b-47).**
 - 1. Jesus' body was laid in a new tomb, indicating that it was to be treated with the dignity and respect typically granted to Israel's kings.

- III. Conclusion:** God providentially orchestrated Jesus' burial with honor, dignity, and prophetic precision, because God rules over all things, including the tomb.



Questions About: Buried By The Hand Of God

1. How is God's providence demonstrated in Jesus' burial? Why did the gospel writers give so much attention to His burial? What does Jesus' burial prove? (**Mark 1:1; 15:39**)
2. Who was present when Jesus died on the cross? (**Mark 15:40-41**) Where were Jesus' eleven disciples? (**Mark 14:50**) Why were these women at the cross? (**Mark 15:40-41, 47**)
3. Who was Joseph of Arimathea? (**Mark 15:42-43, 46**) Why did Joseph ask for the body of Jesus? (**v. 43**) What did the Romans usually do with the bodies of executed criminals?
4. How were Joseph's actions courageous? (**Mark 15:43**) What did he sacrifice by burying Jesus' body in his family tomb? Who helped Joseph prepare Jesus' body? (**John 19:38-40**)
5. Why was Pilate surprised that Jesus had already died? (**Mark 15:44-45**) Why did the Jews request to hasten the death of Jesus? (**John 19:31**) What did this reveal about their hypocrisy?
6. Why did the soldiers not break Jesus' legs when they came to Him? (**John 19:32-34**) How did they confirm that He was dead? How did this fulfill Scripture? (**Ex 12:46; Zech 12:10**)
7. Where did they place the body of Jesus? (**Mark 15:46-47**) Why is it significant that the tomb was new? (**Matt 27:60**) Why did they roll a stone in front of the tomb? (**v. 46**)
8. How was preparing Jesus' body a risk for Nicodemus and Joseph? How did they display true discipleship? (**Mark 8:34-38**) How can you live for Jesus with courage and sacrifice?

Prayer

1. Ask Jesus to help you see that God is providentially in control of this world.
2. Pray that God would give you the courage to stand up for Christ and tell others about Him.