

Good Friday - Evening Devotional

Good Friday is a day where we pause to remember the crucifixion of Jesus. It is a somber day as we reflect on Jesus' death in our place. Tonight, we want to spend some time reading and remembering the burial of Jesus. We don't want to rush through this time to get to Easter Sunday, where Jesus is resurrected; but slowly take our time remembering what happened.

The following passages all share about Jesus' burial thanks to a man named Joseph of Arimathea. Read 1 or all of the passage and compare the differences between each one:

Mark 16:42-47 - 42 "And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. 45 And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. 46 And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid."

Luke 23:50-56 - 50 "Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment."

John 19:38-42 - 38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was 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 away his body. 39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 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 because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

(questions on reverse side)

Questions:

1. What stands out to you from the account of Jesus' burial? What questions come to mind? Is there anything confusing or unclear?
2. Why do you think all the gospel writers make it very clear that Jesus actually died and was actually buried?
3. What do you think it means that Joseph of Arimathea was "looking for the kingdom of God"? John says he was a "secret disciple" of Jesus. Why do you think he kept it a secret?
4. The book of Mark tells us that Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where Jesus was buried. Think through the grief and sadness Jesus' disciples and friends must have been feeling on Friday. Have you ever experienced grief or hopelessness? What brought you through that?

Spend some time in prayer together as a family or individually. Reflect on Jesus' death and burial. Thank God for sending his Son to die. Allow yourself to feel the grief and weight on this moment. Praise God for what Jesus' death accomplished for us.