

LOVE GOES PUBLIC (John 19:38–42)

Big Idea: Love that has truly seen Christ will not stay hidden—it steps into the light and gives itself completely.

I. THE BOLD TURNING (v. 38–39a)

Key Greek Words:

- **tolmaō (τολμάω)** — *to dare, to take courage boldly*
→ Joseph didn't casually approach Pilate—he risked everything.
- **smurna (σμύρνα)** — *myrrh, costly burial resin*
→ Symbol of honor, sacrifice, and royal burial.

Study Insight: Hidden belief becomes visible when Christ becomes undeniable.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where am I hesitating to be bold for Christ?

2. What fear is keeping me silent?

3. What would “stepping into the light” look like this week?

II. THE BODY TENDED (v. 39b–41a)

Key Greek Words:

- **lambanō (λαμβάνω)** — *to take, receive personally*
→ They didn't observe from a distance—they engaged personally.
- **deō (δέω)** — *to bind, wrap tightly*
→ Intentional, careful, devoted action.
- **paraskeuē (παρασκευή)** — *day of preparation*
→ Urgency meets obedience.

Study Insight: True love for Jesus shows up in tangible, sacrificial action—not just words.

Theological Connection:

- **Numbers 19:11** — touching a dead body = unclean
- They chose devotion over religious appearance.

Reflection Questions:

1. Does my faith cost me anything?

2. Where is Jesus calling me to act, not just believe?

3. Do I prioritize appearance or devotion?

III. THE BORROWED TOMB (v. 41b–42)

Key Greek Word:

- **kainos (καινός)** — *new in quality, fresh, unused*
→ Not just new in time—new in kind.

Study Insight: What looks like loss is often God’s setup for resurrection.

Theological Connection:

- **Isaiah 53:9** — prophecy fulfilled
- Garden imagery:
 - Eden → sin enters
 - Garden tomb → sin defeated

Reflection Questions:

1. What am I holding onto that Jesus is asking me to surrender?

2. Am I giving Jesus my leftovers—or my best?

3. Do I trust God’s plan even when it looks like loss?

APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, identify one area where you’ve been living in the shadows:

- A conversation to have
- A step of obedience to take
- A sin to confess
- A surrender to make

Then act on it. Not halfway. Not cautiously. But boldly.

He is with you!