

**JOHN 19:31-42**  
September 12, 1993  
**ROME GEORGIA**  
August 21, 2016

25 years ago, our study in **John** was interrupted at this point when I went to work full time for Bekaert. Preparing expository messages requires hours of study and preparation. For a season, I had to preach topical series that quite frankly, required less time hitting the books. But in due season we returned to our study of **John**. It was not entirely coincidental that we stopped at this point in the book. The burial of Jesus is not a subject that receives a great deal of Revival preaching attention.

Amazingly enough, I found that many others have floundered on the matter of **the BURIAL OF CHRIST**. **Crucifixion?** - **emotion packed, a real tear jerker**. **Resurrection?** - **Mountain top shouting going on here**. But the **Burial of Jesus** - read the text and move on!

**But Yet** - There are those aspects of the passage that demand our attention. Although it appears to be **BUSINESS AS USUAL** - perhaps there is a reason that God included it in his account for us!

**IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THE SANHEDRIAN V. 31**

PREPARATION DAY - For the Sabbath. Not always observed as it should **be, but this was a SPECIAL SABBATH DAY**. **It was the Passover Sabbath**, and so the leaders of the Jews wanted to make sure that everything was done right. (Kind of like we do on Easter).

Jesus had been on the cross from 9:00 AM until the evening.  
He dies around 3:00 PM..  
PILATE was astonished that he had died so soon! **Mark 15:44**.

**Mark 15:44** And **Pilate marvelled** if he were already dead: and calling *unto him* the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

Normally a crucifixion could take **days**.

**BUT - No one took Christ's Life from Him - HE GAVE IT UP WILLINGLY –**

**John 10:17-18**.

**17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

**18** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

**John 19:30** - **τελέω teleō tel-eh'-o** - From **G5056**; **to end**, that is, **complete**, **execute**, **conclude**, **discharge (a debt)**: - accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, go over, **pay**, perform

**It is finished.**

**Luke** adds in **22:46** - FATHER INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.

**Jn 19:31** - **BODIES OFF** the crosses

**DEUT. 21:22-23.**

And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:

**23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree**, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged *is* accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance.

**IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THE SOLDIERS 32**

LEG BREAK

**IRONIC** - SLAUGHTER THE LORD OF THE SABBATH TO KEEP THE SABBATH!

KILLED THE PASSOVER LAMB - IN PREPARATION.

**Ps. 34:20** NO BROKEN BONES

**Psa 34:19** Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

**Psa 34:20** He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

**IT WAS BURIAL AS USUAL FOR THE BODY OF OUR LORD **John 19:38-42****

The purpose of burial - the body is dead. It is of no value to former owner. Decay is all that will distinguish it in future.

**But for 2 of THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE BURIAL** – IT CEASED THAT DAY TO BE **BUSINESS AS USUAL AND BECAME A NEW NORMAL** – everything in their lives was about to change, and **business as usual** would **no longer be possible**.

**John 19:38** -and after this **Joseph of Arimathaea**, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

**39** And there came also **Nicodemus**, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of **myrrh and aloes**, about an hundred pound weight.

*(The Process Of Burial - utilized myrrh - a liquid and aloe -a powdered aromatic spice. Wrappings were used to hold the spice on and to cut down on the odor.)*

**JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA AND NICODEMUS.**

**BUT IT WAS THIS UNUSUAL BURIAL OF OUR LORD THAT ENSURED THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER BE BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR **JOSEPH** OR **NICCODEMUS**.**

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When I received the Lord as my Savior in 1971, it was in an atmosphere of **open testimony to the power of Jesus Christ to save to the uttermost all who came unto Him**. Christ the Only Way Mission was primarily a group of sinners sharing with others what Christ had done for them. As a group of evangelical believers, we found it strange that there were certain Christians, who were very quiet about their faith, ***secret disciples we used to call them at the Mission***.

They were kind of “**Clairol Christians**,” because only God knew for sure that they were believers.

I realize that there are some of you here today that have no idea why we called them Clairol Christians.

When I was in gradeschool in the 50's, there was an ad for **Clairol** hair-coloring that had the tag line, “***Does she or Doesn't she, Only her hairdresser knows for sure***.” Up to that point in time, only about 7% of the Women in America had dared to dye their hair, and those women were mainly actresses, models and **other fast women**.

But this advertising slogan by a Russian Jew named Shirley Polykoff changed everything. **With the assurance that no one would ever know, sales for Hair Coloring hit the roof!**

Attracted by the slogan and its reassuring tag line, “***Hair color so natural only her hairdresser knows for sure***,” within a decade nearly **half of all American women** were regularly coloring their hair, and sales of dyes, tints and rinses had soared from \$25 million to \$200 million a year, with Clairol accounting for more than half the total (as it does today with industry sales of more than \$1 billion).

**Up to this point, both Joseph and Nicodemus had been “Clairol Christians.” Nobody except God knew that they were followers of Jesus.**

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**John 19:38** says that **Joseph** was “a **disciple of Jesus**, but a **secret** one for fear of the Jews.”

From the other gospels, we learn that he was possibly a **prominent member of the Council (the Sanhedrin) who was waiting for the kingdom of God** and that he had to gather up courage to ask Pilate for Jesus' body (**Mark 15:42**).

**Luke 23:50-51** adds that he was a **good and righteous man** who had not consented to their plan and action to crucify Jesus.

We have encountered **Nicodemus** twice before in John's gospel.

In **John 3**, he visited Jesus by night, acknowledging that He was a teacher who had come from God as evidenced by His many miracles.

Jesus startled **Nicodemus**, a Pharisee and “the teacher of Israel” (**John 3:10**), by saying (**John 3:3**), “**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

All of **Nicodemus'** religious activities and scrupulous obedience to the

**Law of Moses would not qualify him for God's kingdom. Rather, he must be born of the Spirit.**

**John 3** does not tell us how **Nicodemus** responded to that initial meeting with Jesus.

But in **John 7**, after the Pharisees were frustrated because their officers had not arrested Jesus, they scornfully ask

**John 7:48** , **"No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?"**

**Nicodemus** weakly defended Jesus by stating (**John 7:51**), "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" His colleagues put him down by replying (**John 7:52**), "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee."

Both **Joseph** and **Nicodemus** may have been among those whom **John** refers to derisively in **12:42-3** :

**"Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God." John 12:42-43**

REMEMBER **JOHN 9:19-23** - Parents of the boy who was born blind. **Anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Christ, "should be put out of the synagogue."**

**These men committed religious and social suicide by their actions that evening. Nothing would ever be the same for them again. No job, no friends, no family! NO LONGER BUSINESS AS USUAL for Joseph or Nicodemus.**

**for Joseph and Nicodemus "BURIAL AS USUAL LEAD TO THE ABOLITION OF "BUSINESS AS USUAL" FOR THE ONE WHO IS BURIED. AND IN THIS CASE, FOR THOSE WHO DID THE BURYING.**

**At a recent CTOWM reunion, I fellowshiped again with many who had come to know Christ over 40 years ago. Among them were JEWS who had turned to Jesus. When these young people accepted Christ and openly professed Jesus as her Savior, they were "counted as dead" by their families. They were turned out of their homes and rejected by family and friends alike.**

**ROMANS 6:3 FF.**

**3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were **baptized into his death?**

**4** **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:** that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**5** For if we have been **planted together in the likeness of his death**, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection:

**6** Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

**7** **For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

- 8 **Now if we be dead with Christ**, we believe that we shall also live with him:
- 9 Knowing that **Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.**
- 10 **For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.**
- 11 **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Our Old man is to be put off - old man is dead! Buried with Christ! Colossians, Ephesians etc.

**NEW MAN IS TO BE PUT ON - WE ARE NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST JESUS!**

**11 COR. 5:17**

**2Co 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**2Co 5:18** And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

After I went to work at Bekaert, the exposition of primary texts of scripture became more difficult. When I started at Bekaert full-time, my hiatus from John was to be temporary. But I am afraid that it became - "**Business as usual**" to do topical series and devotional ditties. Part of the reason for this is the difficulty of dealing with passages that do not contain a particular "zinger verse" of scripture. In exposition you move from verse to verse, paragraph to paragraph, chapter to chapter. When I took my job, I had come to a rather difficult part of our book study. Not so much because of the nature of the material, but actually, because of our familiarity with the material. The accounts of the crucifixion and resurrection are "the old old story" that we love so well. No new insight seems possible on texts of this nature. But yet, it is all God's Word, and in spite of our inadequacies, we must look into each passage, if only to re-read those familiar accounts. (opening from Sept, 12, 1993 message)