

**MATTHEW 27:57 ff./Jn. 19:31-42**  
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**Rich men.** Good, bad, ugly.

Bashing the rich seems to be a national pastime. Our income tax system was designed to afflict the rich so that they were forced to support the poor. Yet, certain rich men have managed to so ingratiate themselves to the “masses” that they seem to be able to get by with murder.

**Ted Kennedy**, of Chappaquiddick fame, constantly berated the rich - while his family continues to enjoy the millions his father Joseph Kennedy made in the bootlegging industry.

**Ted Turner, Georgia boy, founder of CNN**, has once tried to change the Ten Commandments. He even wrote 10 of his own a few years ago He once suggested that the Pope drop the **7th** commandment (against **adultery**), since it is **out of synch with the spirit of our age**.

He then went on to make ethnic slurs against the Polish people by demonstrating that a Polish (land) mine detector was operated by stomping your foot. **But, though he is rich, and a bigot, he is generally on the side of “the world” and therefore he greatly loved by all.**

3 years ago, **Mark Zuckerberg's (Facebook founder) Billion-Dollar Gift Was The Biggest Donation Of 2013.**

**More Recently, Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan have pledged to donate 99 percent of their Facebook shares to the cause of human advancement. That represents roughly \$45 billion at Facebook's current valuation**

**Former President Bill Clinton**, dedicated his life to attacking “the rich” and making promises of redistribution to “the poor”. (ever wonder why **Vince Foster** traveled over 500,000 miles back and forth to Switzerland in the months before his death?)

**Elizabeth Warren** – the Hope of the Democrats – lives in a **2.5 million dollar home** with a cook and two maids. She has a Net Worth of **\$8,000,000**.

**Bernie Sanders, former Democrat/Socialist candidate who wants to redistribute all your wealth** owns **three homes**. Yet he wants you to believe he is on the side of the downtrodden masses. (“ . . . recently **purchased a four-bedroom house on the shore of Lake Champlain for roughly \$600,000. With this purchase, Sanders now owns at least three houses, the others being in Burlington, VT, and Capitol Hill in D.C.**” )

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**Hillary and Bill Clinton (and Chelsea)** left the “Whitehouse” **broke and in debt** – **according the Hillary** and now their little family is worth in **excess of \$100,000,000**.

**Donald Trump** – enough said. “*If you are a celebrity, you can do whatever you want.*” According to lascivious tape recording of him released this weekend.

The rich, like these men/women spend **millions of \$ in public relations**, ( billions as in the case of the Zuckerbergs !) in order to **change their public persona in an effort to be loved by all.**

But, just as **not all “the poor” are virtuous and pure, so likewise all “the rich” are not evil and corrupt.**

The Bible has many stories about people. Some are about common men. Some are about men of wealth and power.

**A small boy with a few fish and a couple of loaves of bread gets almost as much coverage as the rich man in the story of the beggar Lazarus.**

A man's bank account does not always determine his character however.

### **Matt. 27:57-61**

When the even was come, **there came a rich man of Arimathaea**, named **Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:**

**58** He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

**59** And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

**60** And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

**61** And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

**EVENING** - “The evening referred to was the **early evening of the Jewish day** (from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

The **Sabbath began at 6:00 p.m.** and ended at 6:00 p.m. the next day.

So the setting of **v. 57** is around 3:00 p.m.

**Jesus was nailed to the cross at 9:00 a.m., but by 3:00 p.m. He had died.”**

*(John MacArthur, The Resurrection of Jesus Christ. P. 9)*

Most victims of crucifixion lived much longer. Often it took **several days** for death to overtake its victim.

**But no one took the life of Christ - He gave it up willingly.**

**John 10:17-18. \*\*\*\* "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.**

**18** No one takes 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 command I have received from My Father.”

Jesus willingly gave his life in fulfillment of the will of the Father as revealed in all of the Old Testament writings. **Isaiah 53** as well as the New testament –

**Matthew 12:40** - For as **Jonah was three days and three nights** in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The time of Jesus' death had to be early enough on Friday for the Friday to be counted as one of the **“three days”**.

Some people have a problem with the **“three days and three nights”** in **Matt. 12:40**.

**But, what is really being said here? Did the statement require three 24 hour periods?** If this is so, then the crucifixion had to take place on **Thursday**, and the resurrection would therefore have been on the **Fourth day**. This is inconsistent with scriptures which speak of the **resurrection being on the third day**,

“Three days and three nights” was an idiom of the Jewish people referring to a three day period. *op cit, MacArthur p. 11.*

We still use this type of idiom today. A few weeks ago, I was in Atlanta Friday and Saturday. Yet, I was there less than 24 hours. **Was I there two days or one?**

**Annette went to visit Rebekah and Joe in WY as well as her family in Texas. She left in the summer – and returned in the fall. Was she gone one season or two?**

**Rabbi Eleazar ben Azariah** (who lived around A.D. 100) said

**‘A day and a night are an Onah (a portion of time) and the portion of an Onah is as the whole of it.’** (*Jerusalem Talmud, Shabbath, ix.3;*) *op cit, MacArthur p. 11*

**In Luke 24:21** - the disciples were on the **road to Emmaus**, (picture hanging in SS room),

“but we hoped that it had been he who should have redeemed Israel; **and besides all this, today is the third day since these things were done**.”

**They clearly were not expecting three 24 hour periods**, but rather on the “third day” **which from Friday would be Sunday**.

**COMPARE Matt. 16:21** From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, **and be raised the third day**.

**and 17:22-23** Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, **"The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,**

**23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up."** And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

**All the events and all the scripture point to a “third day resurrection” and not a resurrection after “three 24 hour periods**.

**JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED ON FRIDAY MORNING BEGINNING AROUND 9:00 a.m., DIED AROUND 3:00 p.m. AND JOSEPH OF ARAMETHIA CAME TO PILATE TO REQUEST HIS BODY.**

**John 19: 31-34** *TURN HERE AND READ*

preparation for the Sabbath, the special **Passover Sabbath**. (Wooden mallet - leg breaking, spear. coup de grace - **stroke of mercy**)

**Psalm 34:20** “**he keepeth all of his bones, not one of them is broken.:**

**John 19:37** cf. **Zech. 12:10** - And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the **spirit of grace** and of supplications: and they shall look upon **me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

**JOSEPH OF ARAMETHIA – John 19:38**

**Mark 15:43** **Joseph of Arimathea**, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

**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.

**45** And when he knew *it* of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

**Pontius Pilate** was astounded to hear that **JESUS** had died so soon.

**JOSEPH OF ARAMETHIA** was a man of honor, and of power - used of God. why - because he was a man looking for **THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

**HE HAD A HEART FOR THE TRUTH, AND HE KNEW THE TRUTH.**

**Luke 23:51** *tells us* **HE DID NOT CONSENT TO THE DEATH OF JESUS**

**IN FACT, WE READ THAT “ HE WAS DISCIPLINED” BY JESUS.**

**MATT 27:57** - Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

**JOHN 19:38** - A DISCIPLE, YET A SECRET ONE.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being 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 the body of Jesus. **19:38**

BUT THEN **THE FULLNESS of TIME CAME** - HE MADE HIS TESTIMONY KNOWN. HE SACRIFICED HIS REPUTATION, HIS BUSINESS AND POSSIBLY HIS LIFE IN ORDER TO DO THAT WHICH GOD COMMANDED.

HE WAS NOT ALONE

**JOHN 19:39-42 Nicodemus** - another member of the **Sanhedrin** –

MORE DETAILS - **Matt. 27:59-60** And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

**Mat 27:60** And **laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.**

**JOSEPH AND NICODEMUS** WERE “**SECRET DISCIPLES’ FOR A SEASON**. BUT IN THE FULLNESS OF TIMES, THEY REVEALED THEIR LOVE FOR THE SAVIOR. THIS WAS **PRE-RESURRECTION FAITH**. **But soon they would realize that HE IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED.**

**Emmaus Disciples** - **Luke 24:33** And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

**34** Saying, **The Lord is risen indeed**, and hath appeared to Simon.

WE HAVE NOW THE RISEN SAVIOR. THERE IS NO NEED FOR SECRECY. WE CAN BOLDLY PROCLAIM THE RISEN SAVIOR.