Lesson 52 – John 19:31-42 Jesus' Death and Burial
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(31) Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a 'high day'), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear; and at once there came out blood and water.

(35) He who saw it has borne witness --- his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth --- that you also may believe.

(36) For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled:

"Not one of his bones will be broken." (Psalm 34:20)

(37) And again, another Scripture says,

"They will look on him whom they have pierced." (Zechariah 12:10)

(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. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 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. So, because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

<u>Think on these things:</u>

1) Why were the chief priests so insistent that the three bodies on the crosses be removed before Passover? See Deuteronomy 21:22-23. Do you know why breaking the legs of someone being crucified would hasten death?

   _____

   _____

2) How did the soldiers deal with Jesus, thinking He was already dead (v.34)? What does it mean that "blood and water" flowed out of His body?

   Soldiers? _____

   Meaning? _____

3) Can you figure out who, "he who saw it has borne witness" (v.35a) is? What reason does this witness give for sharing his truthful testimony (v.35b)?

   Who? _____

   Reason? _____

4) Joseph of Arimathea is described as a “secret” disciple of Jesus. In your life, what groups of people make it uncomfortable or unsafe for you to be known as a committed Christian? How do you handle this? How do you feel about “secret” disciples? Explain why.

Groups or situations? _____

_____

I handle this by: _____

_____

“Secret” disciples? _____

_____

5) Joseph of Arimathea is no ordinary citizen of Israel. Name at least two indicators found here in John 19 that hint at his stature (vs. 38-41). See also Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; and Luke 23:50-54.

Indicators of status? _____

_____

_____

6) Nicodemus brought along how many pounds of burial spices to help Joseph of Arimathea? When Jesus was put into the tomb, was He put into a casket?

Burial spices? _____

A casket? _____

7) Whose tomb was Jesus laid in? (Matthew 27:59-60)

_____

People and situations I want to pray for this week: