

Sunday, July 29, 2012—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 15:42-47: The Burial of Christ

Not a Bone Shall Be Broken

- John 19:31—knowing that the Sabbath was coming and desiring that their bodies not remain upon the crosses on the Sabbath day, the Jews besought Pilate to break the legs of Jesus and the two thieves upon the cross. This was done to increase the speed at which the crucifixion victims died.
- John 19:32-33—after breaking the legs of the two thieves in verse 32, the legs of Jesus are not broken in verse 33 because they realize that Jesus is already dead.
- John 19:34-35—Jesus is pierced with a spear instead and blood and water flow from the wound.
- John 19:36-37—tells us that these things were done so that the scriptures might be fulfilled.
 - Psalm 34:20—was fulfilled in John 19:36, “A bone of him shall not be broken.”
 - Zechariah 12:10—was fulfilled in John 19:37, “They shall look on him whom they pierced.”

Mark 15:42-47

- **42) And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,**
43) Joseph of Arimathaea, 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.
46) And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.
47) And Mary Magdalene and Mary [the mother] of Joses beheld where he was laid.
- Mark 15:42—it is important to remember that the Jews celebrated their Sabbath from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. In his commentary on the gospels, Charles F. Baker states the following regarding this verse, “Mark explains that “the preparation” meant the day before the Sabbath. This would indicate that Jesus was buried just before sunset on Friday, since the Sabbath began at sunset on that day.” (277)
- Matthew 12:40—Catholic Church tradition says that Jesus was crucified on Friday. This may not have been the case when considering the Jews counted time. According to the traditional view Jesus was crucified and buried before sunset on Friday and rose from the dead Sunday morning.

- Friday before sunset = 1 day
- Sunset Friday till sunset Saturday = 1 day and 1 night (2 days/1 night)
- Sunset Saturday till sunrise Sunday morning = 1 night but does it equal 1 day? (3 days/ 2 nights)
- It would seem that in order for Matthew 12:40 to be literally fulfilled that Jesus would have been crucified on at least Thursday rather than Friday.
- Mark 15:43—introduces to a man named Joseph of Arimathaea who is responsible for the burial of Christ. It is this man that boldly went into the Pilate and boldly requested the Lord's body. Who was Joseph of Arimathaea?
 - Honorable counselor—as we will see shortly, the indication is that Joseph was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin.
 - Waited for the kingdom of God—Joseph was a disciple of the Lord
 - Matthew 27:57—Joseph is explicitly called a disciple of Jesus.
 - Luke 23:50-51—Joseph was a good and just man. Verse 51 tells us that Joseph had not consented with the council in their decision to put Jesus to death. According to verse 51, as a follower of Christ, Joseph was looking for the kingdom of God to be established.
 - John 19:38—Joseph was a follower of Christ secretly because he feared the Jews, i.e., what the rest of the Jewish council would say if they knew.
 - John 19:39—John alone records that Joseph of Arimathaea was not alone in this endeavor. Nicodemus who first approach Christ by night in John 3:2 supplied the myrrh and aloes with which to anoint the body.
- It is interesting to note the role reversal in these passages. Those who up until the crucifixion of Jesus were only “secret” or “night” disciples are emboldened by his death to public action. Whereas the Apostles who had been the known followers of Christ are nowhere to be found.
- Mark 15:44-45—Pilate marvels that Jesus was dead so soon. Before releases the body of Jesus into the hands of Joseph of Arimathae, Pilate confirms with the centurion the Jesus was really in fact dead. Upon confirmation, Joseph is granted possession of the body.
- Mark 15:46—reports that Joseph took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped his body in linen, laid his body in the sepulcher, and rolled a stone in front of the door.

- Matthew 27:59-60—Joseph buried Jesus in a new tomb.
- Luke 23:53—no one had ever been laid in this tomb before Christ.
- John 19:40-42—Nicodemus assists Joseph with removing the body from the cross, winding the body with linen and spices, and laying the body in the nearby sepulcher. Please take note that the tomb was close to where Jesus had been crucified.
- Mark 15:47—it was the women who are beholding all of these public acts. Where are the men? Where are the apostles? They are hiding in fear and shame, dejected and defeated.
 - Mark 15:40-41—not only is it the women who behold the burial process but it was the women who witnessed the Lord's death.
 - Matthew 27:61
 - Luke 23:55-56
- Matthew 27:62-66—remember the words of Christ the chief priests seemingly violate the Sabbath in order to request that Pilate set a watch to secure the tomb lest the disciples come and steal the body.