

Burial of the King (Mark 15:42-47)

Café Church - 20-August-17

There are Bibles on the table in front of you

And a sermon outline

And some questions

Let me pray first...

Context

[PowerPoint 1-Context]

Before we begin - let's get the context of where we are:

Last week we left Jesus on the cross

He said those last words in Mark 15:34:

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

Jesus crucifixion started at 9am - v25

And lasted till 3pm - v33

6 hours of torture

A terrible death

We saw the temple curtain torn in two as he died - v38

Which meant that we now have direct access to God the Father because of Jesus' death - we are no longer separated from God - Jesus has bought us forgiveness

IF - we care to believe in Him - of course!

Even a Roman Centurion - Gentile/Roman gods -believed Jesus is the Son of God - v39

Now we can look at tonight's passage:

The time of burial (v42)

[PowerPoint 2-Time of burial]

Jesus has been crucified

Verse 42 says it's Preparation Day - that's the day before the Sabbath

Jewish Sabbath is Saturday

So the Preparation Day is Friday - Good Friday!

It's 3pm - and as it says evening is approaching

That's important

Because the Jewish days start from 6pm

So Jewish Sabbath starts at 6pm Friday and finishes at 6pm Saturday

So if it's 3pm on Friday - it's only 3 hours before Sabbath begins

And then once Sabbath starts they can't do any work

Burying a dead body would be classed as work

Often crucified victims were not buried - and just left on the ground for the vultures - which might be another explanation for the hill that Jesus was crucified on - Golgotha - being called the place of the skull - as there were bones there.

In any case time is running out if Jesus is to be buried

People Involved (vv43-47)

[PowerPoint 3-John 12]

Now - before we look at the people involved in our Bible passage

Let's remind ourselves of what Jesus said a few days before He died

From John's Gospel - chapter 12 - from verse 31 to 33:

³¹Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Jesus is saying a few things here

1. One - His death will defeat the power of Satan - for those who believe Jesus' death on the cross - gives them forgiveness - it means Satan, the Prince of this world is a defeated enemy - He can tempt us and trick us and threaten us - but he can't beat us - if we remember and believe that Jesus has defeated Satan's power
2. And second when Jesus says He will be lifted up - He's talking about being lifted up on the Cross - all part of God's plan to save people from sin
3. And third when He is lifted up on the cross - this will draw people to Him

Joseph of Arimathea

[PowerPoint 4-Joseph]

And that's the case for our first person involved

Joseph of Arimathea

Sadly Joseph was a prominent member of the Jewish Council - the Sanhedrin

This was the Council that ran Jesus' religious trial and found Him guilty of blasphemy and declared Jesus must be killed

Joseph - wasn't brave enough to speak up for Jesus at the religious trial

He preferred to save his own skin and keep quiet - rather than speak up for Jesus

But now that Jesus is dead on the cross

Jesus' prediction that His lifting up on the cross would draw people to Him

Is taking place - almost immediately

Joseph's really brave and bold it says in v43

And he goes and asks Pontius Pilate, the Governor, if he can have Jesus' body for burial

That's quite a dramatic change - isn't it?

You see when we read about Jesus' teaching, His unfair trial, His suffering and then the way He died on the cross - it's pretty difficult not to be affected

It causes people to think

And realize - perhaps this is all true after all

Perhaps Jesus is who He says He is

Joseph now realizes Jesus is the Son of God

And he doesn't care what happens to him - by admitting he follows Jesus - will put him in bother with the other members of the Jewish Council - and could cause him to get arrested too!

But Jesus is not going to be left to the vultures

So Joseph takes care of Jesus' body

Wraps it in linen cloth

There wasn't time to properly prepare the body of Jesus for burial because it was almost Sabbath

And placed it in a tomb

Tombs like that were quite expensive - so this was a cost to Joseph

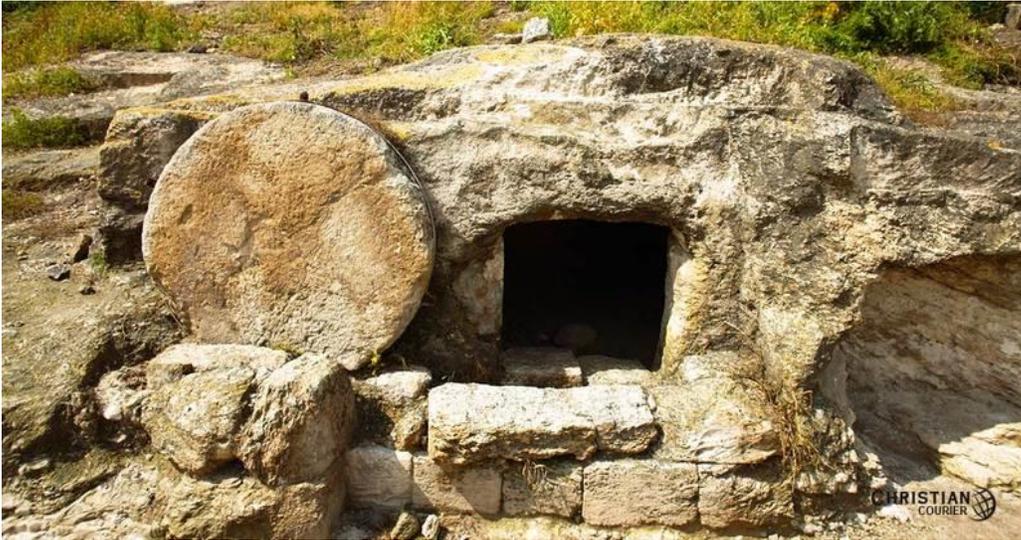
But Jesus would only need the tomb for a short while!

Tombs were often cut into the side of a rock - a bit like a cave

Then he rolled a stone across the entrance

[PowerPoint 5-Tomb]

The stone usually rolled down hill slightly and had a ledge so it wasn't so easy to roll away again - it would take one person to close the tomb but several to open it



Pontius Pilate

[PowerPoint 6-Pilate]

Then there's Pontius Pilate

He's got splinters from sitting on the fence

He knows Jesus was innocent

Even Pontius Pilate's wife has told him Jesus was innocent (Matt 27:19) having been told in a dream!

Pilate is surprised Jesus is dead (v44) - since sometimes death by crucifixion could take a couple of days - and the victim died from exhaustion and asphyxiation

But because Jesus was flogged (scourged) so badly - he died relatively quickly

Centurion

[PowerPoint 7-Centurion]

Then there's the centurion

He's one of the people drawn to Jesus by Jesus being lifted up on the cross

He's seen first-hand how Jesus suffered and died

And he has no doubt how Jesus died - shows He is someone totally unique - in fact He believes Jesus is the Son of God

The Mary's

Finally we have the Mary's

[PowerPoint 8-Mary's]

Mary Magdalene - and Mary the mother of James and Joseph

Both Mary's were at the cross too (v40)

Being at Jesus' side at his death and his burial - especially such a terrible death shows the love they had for Jesus

And again confirms what Jesus predicted -

When He is lifted up - He will draw people to Him

Verse 47 is also important in that the Mary's saw where Jesus was buried

This makes them witnesses (not so credible in the culture of the day - but then why would Mark mention it - if it's not true)

And knowing where Jesus is laid - is important in the next chapter - chapter 16 - verses 1 and 2 - when they go to anoint Jesus' body with spices (more about next time - 2 weeks)

[PowerPoint 9-Unlikely witnesses]

The bottom line is Mark gives us some unlikely eye witnesses

Not the apostles or Jesus' disciples

But Joseph - part of the council that found him guilty

A Roman governor - who believed Jesus to be innocent

A Roman centurion

And female witnesses

Hardly the most credible witnesses

So by Mark mentioning them all - it adds weight to the truth of Jesus death and resurrection

Response

So how will we respond to Jesus' burial tonight?

[PowerPoint 10a-Response 1]

1. Like Jesus - we need to **stand up for Jesus** and be bold - no matter what it might cost us. That's particularly relevant - at present - when we see what's happen with the proposed SSM debate - and also SRE and Safe Schools. What areas of our community life do we need to stand up for Jesus

[PowerPoint 10b-Response 2]

2. We need to **serve Jesus** in the ways we can - the apostles couldn't provide Jesus with a tomb - Joseph could. We must serve God in whatever way we can! Perhaps it's time to make an inventory of the ways you can serve Jesus

[PowerPoint 10c-Response 3]

3. The Stone across the tomb - closes the door on our sin - Jesus' death deals with our sin once and for all - He takes the punishment for our sin - and slams the door on Satan. Jesus said His death - His lifting up on the cross would draw people to Him - how can people be drawn to Him - if they don't know about what He has done for the world. So it's time to **show Jesus** to everyone. How can we do that?

Q&A

Let's Pray