



Morningside Church Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Bones, The Burial, and The Believers

Date: March 29, 2026

Scripture Text: John 19:31-42

Notes:

The crucifixion of Jesus has taken place, just as He told His disciples it would. [John 19:28-30](#) describe Jesus' final moments before His death. Jesus knew "all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture" ([vs. 28](#)), and followed that by the statement "it is finished", then "bowed His head and gave up His spirit" ([vs. 30](#)). Carson observes that "Jesus' knowledge *that all was now completed* is the awareness that all the steps that brought him to this point of pain and impending death were in the design of his heavenly Father, and death itself was imminent". His work was complete. He did all His heavenly Father called Him to do. All this was according to what had been foretold concerning the Messiah. Jesus was not a victim of circumstance, but God was in total control, and nothing happened to Jesus that He didn't allow. In today's message, we'll look at the events that immediately followed Jesus' death and see that everything happened just as had been said. Let's look at the *bones*, the *burial* and the *believers*...

I. The BONES ([John 19:31-37](#))

"The occurrence of the death of Jesus earlier than the authorities had expected made it unnecessary for the soldiers to hasten the end by breaking his legs so that the body might be removed and buried before sunset, when the new day began, which was not only a Sabbath but the Passover Sabbath. There was thus no violation of the Jewish law that the body of a condemned man must not hang all night upon a tree ([Dt. 21:23](#)). The evangelist [John] is also careful to note that another law, relating to sacrifice, was also fulfilled. This stated that no bone of the sacrificial lamb should be broken ([Ex. 12:46](#)). The sacrifice of the true Passover Lamb is thus shown to have been complete both in the perfection of its own inner self-offering and in its external details" (Tasker).

- The Jews observed Passover each year where a spotless lamb was sacrificed. On this Passover, Jesus was the Passover Lamb (Lamb of God). Describe how Jesus was the last Passover Lamb?
- The Apostle John highlights two prophetic elements around the death of Jesus. One from [Ex. 12:46/Num. 9:12](#) that no bones would be broken and the second from [Zech. 12:10](#) describing the Messiah as One "whom they pierced". Why is it important to make connections between the events of Jesus' life and the prophetic sayings that affirm them?
- How can seeing how God's word, coming true through His prophets, give us confidence today that we can trust God's word?



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II. The BURIAL (John 19:38-42)

Upon Jesus' death, two men are given permission to take away the body of Jesus. It was quite unusual for them to lay Jesus' body in a new, unused tomb. The typical treatment of a criminal's body was to take it to a dump and burn it. But even in His death, Jesus was fulfilling prophecy ([Isa. 53:9](#)).

- Why is it significant that Jesus was buried in a new tomb, in a garden, near the place of crucifixion?
- Why is it important that John described Jesus' burial in such detail?
- After reading these verses, is there any doubt that Jesus is indeed dead?
- Why is it important that Jesus truly died?
 - As the Lamb of God, by His death Jesus paid the price for all sin, past, present, and future.
- How do these verses set the stage for the resurrection?

III. The BELIEVERS (John 19:38-39)

The two men who came forward and requested Jesus' body were Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Nicodemus' initial encounter with Jesus is presented in John 3 where he came "to Him by night". These two, who had been secret followers of Jesus, boldly stepped forward asking to bury Jesus' body.

- Fear of the Jews is listed as the reason for Joseph to maintain a secrecy around his following of Jesus. How can fear hinder our witness to others concerning our relationship with Jesus?
- Joseph was the first to step forward, followed by Nicodemus. How can our bold steps for Christ encourage other Christians to do the same?
- Nicodemus brought about 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes to help prepare Jesus' body for burial. This was a significant amount of spices and very costly yet was an expression of Nicodemus' devotion to Jesus. What does 'costly devotion' look like for followers of Jesus today?
- The realization of what Jesus did for us (died for our sins) can be motivation to live for Him. What does it look like to live for Jesus?

"Of greatest consequence in John's narrative is this phrase, **It is finished**. Surely this refers to the suffering and earthly life of Jesus, but also the task of bringing salvation to the human race. We should remember the prayer John [Jesus] uttered earlier, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do" (17:4). The words **it is finished** translate *tetelestai* that appears in the perfect tense. Even the grammar of the text signifies the full completion of Jesus' work." (Gangel)