

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Three Strange Questions:
- B. The Real Question:

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I. DISCOVERING THE FACTS BY JOSEPH:

- A. Nicodemus Knew:
- B. Nicodemus Continued Communication With Christ:
- C. Scriptural Promises About Messiah's Death:
  1. PLACE - Gen. 22:14
  2. DAY & HOUR - Ex. 12:6
  3. YEAR - Dan. 9:24-27
  4. LOCATION - Lev. 4:12
  5. DIRECTION - Lev. 1:11

Prop: Let's discover the facts which were known to Joseph of Aramathia

"in the evening" - Lit. "between the evenings" Hebrewism for 3 PM

7 yrs. 62-434 yrs.

II. FOLLOWING THE ACTIONS OF JOSEPH:

- A. Action To Get The Body:
  1. Boldness in disciples - Acts 4:43
  2. Boldness by Joseph - Mark 15:43
  3. WHY this boldness? - Before the Res.
- B. Action To Prepare The Body:
  1. Linen and spices - Joseph - Lk. 23:53 & Mk. 15:46 - Nicodemus - Jn. 19:39
  2. Tomb - Jn. 19:41 & Mt. 27:60
- C. Action To Remain A "Secret" Disciple:
  1. "Secretly" - Jn. 19:38
  2. "Boldly" - Mk. 15:43
  3. WHY was Joseph hiding?
  4. WHERE was Joseph hiding?
- D. Action To Openly Declare His Allegiance:
  1. Before Pilate
  2. Before Centurion
  3. Before the Jews
  4. Before the Soldiers
  5. Before the Women
  6. Joseph proved his allegiance openly!

Fulfilled to the day on Palm Sunday

Altar outside of the Camp of Israel - Northward

D. - Recap of 5 Promises

Steel welder to this backbone  
 Paying a price  
 - Separating from Family / Temple / Sanhedrin  
 - Bright faith in a dark moment  
 - Heaven - sent courage in a time when all others were tripping over their lower lips.  
 - LEARN! - Don't doubt in the dark what God has taught you in the light - When God speaks, He doesn't stutter

Sin offering made w/o the camp - Clean offering for sin was to be made outside the Camp Ch. 6. The Holy Sep. is inside the walls - Confession was outside the city wall

III. FINAL RITES BY JOSEPH:

- A. Preparations And Thoughts:
  1. John 3:14-16
  2. Psalm 69:20-21
  3. Zech. 12:10
  4. Psalm 22:16
  5. Isa. 52:14
  6. Isa. 53:5-6
  7. WHAT A GOSPEL MEETING!
  8. Centurion's Confession - Mk. 15:39
- B. Concluding Actions: Most poignant spot on earth in the nostrils of God.
- C. Results For Joseph & Nicodemus:
  1. Broke every tie to the Temple
  2. Deliberately handled a dead body
  3. Lost claim to privileges of the old order
  4. Became priests of a new order

CONCLUSION:

- A. Three Questions And ONE ANSWER:
- B. Results For Joseph:
- C. Results For Us:
  - 1 - Salvation
  - 2 - Separation
  - 3 - Sacrifice
  - 4 - Search
  - 5 - Service

# DID JOSEPH KNOW?

(11)

Math. 27:57-61; MK. 15:42-47; Lk. 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

## INTRO:

### A - Three Strange Questions:

Q#1 - Why did J. make a sepulchre where he did?

- Outside the city of Jesus
- 25 miles from his home in Aramathia
- Not the usual burial place for Jewish leaders
- Why in Jesus, which gave his lord no refuge?

Q#2 - Why did J. select the garden & hew out the sepulchre outside the city?

- Prominent graves were IN side the city wall
- Place was unclean (in the sight of the Jews)
- OUTside the camp of Israel in the city
- Hewn by the hands of the rich man ~~himself~~

Q#3 - For himself... OR... For One he loved?

Why did J. choose Malefactor's Hill?

- Visitors to this grave would see & hear agony of Roman crucifixions

- The whole 360° circumference of the city was visible

- Why would anyone want a tomb THERE?

- Who was to be buried there?

4 - Repeat the 3 Q's

### B. - The REAL Q:

1 - Since we know J. buried the body of Jesus here...

2 - If J. knew J.C. was to be crucified, then doubtless the tomb was prepared FOR J - C - !

3 - Crucial Q: "DID JOSEPH KNOW?"

- 4 - Let's do some sleuthing  
 5 - PROP - Let's discover the facts which were known by J. of A., and learn lessons for ourselves from them

(2)

## I. - DISCOVERING THE FACTS!

### A. - Nicodemus Knew:

- 1 - That Jesus was MESSIAH & That He MUST DIE - Jn. 3:14
- 2 - N + J - Were the only 2 on the Sanhedrin who believed in Jesus
  - Friends
  - Members of Jewish Court of leaders
  - What one knew, the other knew - HEART FRIENDS
- 3 - Two who were instructed disciples
  - Knew Law from memory (Gen, thru Deut)
  - Knowledgeable of Prophets & Psalms
  - Acquainted w/ MANY Messianic Prophecies
  - Knew of death by crucifixion
    - \* Ps. 22
    - \* God's Messiah cruelly killed
    - \* Anti-type of the Brazen Serpent of Moses
- INCENTIVE to us to study the OT, & learn!
- 4 - Nicodemus' faith manifested
  - Questioned the Sanhedrin's actions - Feeble faith
  - Jn. 7:51
  - 68 to 2 vote for Jesus' death - Faithful stand
  - Lk. 23:51

### B. - Nicodemus Continued Communication w/ Christ:

- 1 - Unlikely just one encounter of John 3
- 2 - Communed - frequently/repeated occasions
  - \* Personally
  - \* Repeated words of Jesus from others
- 3 - Jesus TOLD the 12 of death, burial & res. some 17 times

4- Why not Mt. also? ~~the~~ J.?

5- These two would have taken such words SERIOUSLY!  
They KNEW the O.T. prophecies

C. - Scriptural Promises About Messiah's Death: } 5 of them

- 1- The PLACE - Gen. 22 ~~is~~ record of Mt. Moriah; Mt. of Jewish Temple
  - Jehovah-Jireh = "The Lord will provide"
  - 22:14 - "In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen"
  - Mt. Calvary to the NORTH can be easily seen

2- The DAY, HOUR + MONTH

- Ex. 12 - Institution of Passover in Egypt
- Celebration to be an annual event for Israel FOREVER!
- KJV - "In the evening"; Lit. "between the evenings" 3 PM
- Day, month + hour of slaying was prescribed

3- The YEAR - Dan. 9:24-27 - Very full prophecy

- ~~KJV~~ Calculate the year when Messiah would be cut off in sacrifice for sins
- 7 sevens of years = 49 years
- 62 sevens of years = 434 years
- 483 until Messiah "cut off"

... FULFILLED on Palm Sunday before X's crucifixion  
- Year of Messiah's sacrifice clearly predicted!

4- The LOCATION - Lev. 4:12

- Outside the camp for a SIN OFFERING
- Clean place for this spiritual sacrifice
- ~~Outside~~ R.C. Ch. teaches the sacrifice was made inside the camp + wall, where they have built the Ch. of the Holy Sepulchre
- But Crucifixion was OUTSIDE the city walls

5- The DIRECTION - Lev. 1:11

- Sacrificial offering was always made on the

- NORTH of the Camp of Israel
- Corresponds to Roman place of execution
- Jews were denied the right of capital punishment by their Roman conquerors

D. - Recap. of 5 Scriptures:  $\frac{1}{3}$  4 6 - Thus, the FACTS were revealed in Scr. & could be known to any who "searched the Scriptures"

II. - FOLLOWING THE ACTIONS OF JOS.

A. - Actions To Claim The Body:

- 1- "Boldness" in Jesus 12 disciples
  - They "mourned & wept" — RAN AWAY!
  - Bold only after the res — Acts 4:13
  - Confused & dispersed from the Cross

2- But J. was "BOLD"

- Mk. 15:43

- And this was BEFORE the Res.

- WHY BOLD?

Position Family Temple  
Jews + Jesus  
Sanhedron

3- J. severed every tie & link

He paid a great price in his actions

4- WHY? - Because his faith was confirmed

- Bright faith in a dark hour

- Heaven-sent courage in a hard time, when all others were tripping over their lower lips

5- LEARN! - Don't doubt in the dark hours what God has taught you in the sunshine hours.

- When God speaks, He never stutters

B. - Action To Prepare The Body:

3 Things Needed = Linen  
= Spices  
= Tomb

- 1- Linen & spices were ready
- 2- Shows that death was expected & burial planned for
- 3- Couldn't purchase these on a HOLY DAY of PREPARATION for Passover after arrest & condemnation of Jesus
- 4- Jos. provided the linen — Lk. 23:53; Mk. 15:46, Mt. 27:59  
" " spices — Jn. 19:39  
NIC " " must have been "IN CLOTHS"!

## 5- Tomb needed — Immediately!

(5)

- Near to Calvary — Jn. 19:41 "in the place where He was crucified."
- Already dug + ready
- Burial on same day as death in Palestine — HOT COUNTRY
- Dug by J's own hand

\* Unusual; highly unusual

\* Manual labor + hard work

\* Much time + effort

\* Done privately + personally so no others knew of it

\* Joseph's secret

\* New tomb; Never before used; Ready

\* As a love-gift for his Savior/Master

Spices + linen stored there + ready for use

## C. — Action To Remain A "Secret" Disciple:

- 1- John 19:38 — "secretly" in KJV — Long puzzled me
  - Read Andrew Bonar who showed me "secreted" or "having been hidden"

- 2- MK. 15:13 — "BOLD" + UNRESERVED in contrast to Nic. + others of Jesus' disciples
  - Claims Jesus' body from Pilate "Boldly"
  - BOTH "bold" + "secreted" (= HIDDEN)
  - Statements don't seem to match

## 3- Why was Jos. hiding?

- ? — For fear of losing position on Sanhedrin?

- ? — For fear of expulsion from Temple + Synagogue?

- ? — For fear of family or friends?

- NO! Emphatically NO!!

- Jos. was afraid of the Jews capturing him + putting him in prison before he could accomplish the work he had purposed + prepared, so as to give Israel's King an honorable burial

- Jos. was a COMMITTED believer

4- Where was Jos. hiding?

- Near Calvary to know what was going on
- "secreted" in a place of safety until the proper time
- Only ONE safe place — A SEPULCHRE

— Place where a dead body is buried  
 — WHITEWASHED 4 days before  
Passover

- Scrupulously avoided by Jews to avoid ceremonial defilement

- NOT defiling to Jos, for his was a NEW TOMB w/ no body having yet been laid in it
- Perfectly safe & secure hiding place w/o defilement
- Thus Jos. + Nic could see & hear all w/o being observed or endangered

D. - Actions To <sup>Openly</sup> Declare His Allegiances:

- 1- Before Pilate to claim the body
- 2- Before the Centurion on the way to Calvary to claim the body
- 3- Before the Jews who lingered & watched
- 4- " " Soldiers who gambled & guarded
- 5- " " Women who silently observed
- 6- Jos. PROVED his allegiance!

THE  
 CROWD  
 AT CALVARY

- In his open stand in Christ's behalf
- In his separation from religious apostasy that condemned the Jews
- In his acts of preparation of the tomb & linen
- In the costs he paid
  - \* In time & effort digging the tomb
  - \* In money to buy the linen
  - \* In social ostracism by family & friends
  - \* In religious exclusion
  - \* From ALL he held dear & valuable

III

A — Most fragrant spot in the whole universe

(7)

CONCL

A. Three Questions And One Answer:

- 1 - Why was the sepulchre there? — For Jesus Christ!
- 2 - " " " " have? — "
- 3 - " " " " near Malefactor's Hill — "
- 4 - BECAUSE - Jor. believed God's Word  
- " loved " Son
- 5 - After all, what did " life really for? <sup>purpose</sup>

B. The Results For Joseph:

- 1 - Jor. became a priest of the New Order as a child of God
- 2 - " went without the camp bearing Christ's reproach —  
Heb 13:
- 3 - So he entered — A new + living way  
— A new access to God  
— A new separation to serving God

C. The Results For Us:

- 1 - May our devotion to JC cause us to do likewise in taking our stand
- 2 - How? — In Salvation — "Ye must be born again!"  
→ In Separation — Make a break from all which dishonors our Lord or weakens us  
— In Sacrifice — 2 Sam. 24:24  
— In Searching — Go back to God's Book!  
— Study + know + obey  
— This is the way God orders the steps of His saints  
— In Serving — God's purposes for our lives  
— Our generation as long as we live



3 - Jesus' words include those who have failed

- MK. 16:7 - "and Peter"

- You, too, can come to Jesus -

Salv.  
Separ  
Sacr.  
Search  
Serve

4 - 1Pet. 2:9 + 2:5

"Joseph Of Aramathea"

Mt. 27:57-61

Mk. 15:42-47

Lk. 23:50-56

DID JOSEPH KNOW?

Jn. 19:38-42

where to die?

A. Three Strange Questions:

- 1. Why did Joseph make a sepulcher where to die?
  - 25 miles from home in Aramathea
  - not in place of usual tombs of leaders
  - why in Jerusalem which gave no refuge to his Lord?

Outside the city of Jerus.

- 2. Why did Joseph select the garden & hew the sepulcher outside the gate?
  - prominent graves inside the wall
  - place of the unclean (in the sight of the Jews)
  - outside the camp
  - hewn by the hands of the rich man himself
  - for himself / or One whom he loved?

- 3. Why did Joseph choose "Malefactor's Hill?"
  - Visitors to the grave would see & hear the agony on Calvary where
  - Why want a tomb there?
  - WHO was <sup>to be</sup> buried there?

Repeat 3 Q's

B. The Real Question:

- 1- Joseph buried Christ there
- 2- If Joseph knew Christ was to be crucified, then doubtless the tomb was PREPARED FOR CHRIST.
- 3- Crucial question: DID JOSEPH KNOW???

DISCOVERING

W/ whole circumference of 360 the city

~~CUMULATING~~

I. ~~FACTS BY JOSEPH:~~

A. Nicodemus Knew:

- 1- That Christ must die --- Jn. 3:14
- 2- Nicodemus & Joseph ~~are~~ friends
- 3- fellow members of Sanhedrin
  - what 1 knew, the other knew
- 3- Two instructed disciples Two of personal faith on Sanhedrin Memorized
  - studied Law, Prophets, & Psalms
  - Acquainted with Messianic predictions
  - Knew of death by crucifixion --- Ps. 22
  - Antitype of Brazen Serpe/
- 4- Nicodemus' feeble faith manifested --- Jn. 7:51

B. Communication With Christ:

- 1- Unlikely to have been just the once in Jn. 3
- 2- Communed, probably, on several occasions --- FREQUENTLY!
- 3- Told 12 disciples of death, burial, & resurrection
- 4- Why not told to Nicodemus & Joseph too?????
- 5- THESE would take these words seriously because of their knowledge of the O.T.

Institution of the Passover

Conclusions which are inescapable - 5 OT Passages.

C. Scriptural Premises About Christ's Death.

- 1- Gen. 22:14 - "Yehovah will provide"
  - Crucifixion visible from Mt. Moriah - Mt. of Jewish Temple later
  - see Mt. Calvary to the North
- 2- Ex. 12:6 - "keep it up" - IN OBSERVATION
- 3- Dan. 9:24 - "calculate year when Messiah was to be cut off"
- 4- Lev. 4:12 - "Outside the camp" for SIN OFFERING
  - Corresponded to place of Roman execution
  - Jews were denied right by Rome to execute the

Place from which it could be seen  
Day + Hour  
Year

Location

**II. - ACTIONS OF JOSEPH:**

**A. - Action**

1- Boldness in Disciples

- "mourned & wept"
- bold only after the Res.
- Acts 4:13

2- But Joseph was BOLD

- Before the Res.
- Mk. 15:43
- Why bold????

- Severed every link with family
- position
- Jerusalem & Jews
- Sanhedrin
- Temple

3- WHY? -- Because his faith was confirmed

- Bright faith in a dark moment
- Heaven-sent courage in a hard time.

**Action**

**B. - To Prepare The Body:**

1- Linens & Spices:

- show not only was death expected,
- but burial also
- couldn't purchase on Holy Day Preparation Day (after decision to take Jesus)
- couldn't purchase on Holy Day of Passover
- Joseph provided linen & not spices - Lk. 23:53; Mk. 15:46; Mt. 27:59
- Nicodemus provided spices & not linen - Jn. 19:39
- Must have been "IN CANOOTS"

2- Tomb Needed:

- Near Calvary -- Jn. 19:41 -- "in the place where He was crucified"
- Already provided & ready because of speedy burial in Palestine
- Dug by his own hands -- so no others would know of it The
- UNUSUAL! Highly unusual as a love-gift for his Master
- Joseph's secret
- New tomb, never before used LOVE-GIFT
- Spices & linen stored at the tomb & ready for use

**Action**

**C. - To Remain A "SECRET" Disciple Of Jesus:**

- 1- Jn. 19:38 -- not "secretly", but "secreted" or "HAVING BEEN HIDDEN"

- 2- Bold & unreserved in contrast to timid Nicodemus & so goes BOLDLY to claim the body BOTH bold + secreted at the same time!

- 3- These 2 statements don't seem to "match" < Hidden time!

- 4- Then why was Joseph in hiding?

- ? -- for fear of forfeiting position on Sanhedrin?
- ? -- for fear of being put out of the Temple & Synagogue?
- ? -- for fear of friends?

(NO!), emphatically (NO!)

-- Joseph was afraid of the Jews putting him in prison before he accomplished the work he had purposed & prepared to do to give the Son of God the burial of a King

- 5- Where was Joseph hiding?? (= "secreted") go to claim the body

- Near Calvary to know what went on
- Yet safely protected until he would place where dead body is entombed
- Only 1 safe place -- a sepulchre

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter + John + perceived that they were unlearned + ignorant men, they marvelled: they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus

Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, + went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

Mk. 15:43  
I was a committed believer

Capturing him +

Yet NOT DEFILING for J+ N. because never had a body been laid in this NEW tomb, whitewashed 4 days before Passover scrupulously avoided by Jews for fear of ceremonial defilement. Perfect hiding place for Joseph, Nicodemus, linen & spices, yet not defiling for it contained no body yet.

- Action**
- 1- To Openly Declare His Allegiance: *Safety + Security*
- 1- Before Pilate in his request for the body *- to claim it*
  - 2- Before the Centurion on way to Calvary to receive the body
  - 3- Before the Jews who still lingered & watched
  - 4- Before the soldiers who were still on duty
  - 5- Before the women who observed
  - 6- PROVED his allegiance
- by his open stand
  - by his separation from the religious apostasy that crucified Christ
  - by his actions of love & preparation *- Open declaration of allegiance*
  - by his cost paid financially in the tomb and linen *held dear.*
    - socially & religiously
    - *From all*

**III. FINAL RITES BY JOSEPH + NICODEMUS**

**A. Preparations & Their Thoughts:**

As Nicodemus looked up he may have repeated: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-16).

Then while Joseph looked at the gaping side, riven by the soldier's spear while he was away talking to Pilate, he may have quoted: "Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Ps. 69:20-21). "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (Zech. 12:10).

Together, with tender hands they drew out the nails, and if the limbs were bound, they loosed the cords to take the body down. I am sure they must have repeated: "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet" (Ps. 22:16).

**B. Concluding actions:**

When Nicodemus and Joseph took the body of our Lord from the cross, they broke every tie that bound them to the temple and its service. Were they of the priestly family of Aaron or of the consecrated tribe of Levi, they violated every link with the old order at Jerusalem when they deliberately handled a dead body on the eve of the Passover. They lost every claim to the privileges or service of the temple; they had completely broken with the old order.

The two faithful friends, in the sight of the Jewish authorities who were silent in their helpless wrath, bore the sacred body to the soft green grass and laid it down to prepare it for burial. They would straighten the arms by the body, then looking upon that face as they took the crown of thorns from His brow, they would say together, "His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men" (Isa. 52:14).

And again, as they looked and wept upon Him, they repeated: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:5, 6).

What a gospel meeting that was! The Jews were silent, helpless and bitter; the Roman soldiers awe-stricken because of the earthquake and because of His dying cry which had made them admit, "Surely this man was the Son of God."

But when they carried that body to a clean place outside the camp they were priests of a new order. They were members of that royal priesthood that is a "chosen generation, a holy nation, a peculiar people," ordained to "show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light" (I Pet. 2:9). They were of that "spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 2:5).

C. Results For Joseph + Nicodemus

MR. 15:39

This that Joseph and Nicodemus did was one of the first evidences of victory in the midst of seemingly overwhelming

and irretrievable defeat.

"So let all thine enemies be confounded, O Lord; but let them that love thee be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might" (Judg. 31).

### B.-Concluding Actions

Why do I believe that Nicodemus and Joseph quoted these verses? Well, I know that they knew them. I know also that if we had been in their place, we would have quoted them.

All could see that what the two men were doing was a labor of love. The folds of the napkin were wrapped about His head while the spices were poured in. Then, beginning at the feet, the body was carefully and reverently wrapped by Joseph, while Nicodemus poured in the myrrh and aloes. The fragrance of that preparation must have pervaded the

whole atmosphere. That was the most fragrant spot in the universe of God.

When the body was ready the women who for shame had been afar off, drew near, and followed as mourners to the tomb and beheld where He was laid. As

Nicodemus bore the precious stone (v. 33). Each of these verses contain the state-  
 His supremacy over our regard for possessions (v. 33).  
 His supremacy and plans (v. 27). The third is  
 The second is His supremacy over our own  
 above all relatives and friends (v. 26).  
 The first is His supremacy  
 discipleship. The first is His supremacy

- CONCL: A-Three Questions; one Answer. in that location
- 1- The Questions:
    - 1- Why was the sepulchre there?-----FOR CHRIST
    - 2- Why was the sepulchre hewn?-----FOR CHRIST
    - 3- Why was the sepulchre near "Malefactor's Hill"-----FOR X

4- BECAUSE Joseph believed God's Word  
 Joseph loved God's Son +  
 Joseph served God's purpose

Results For Joseph, What else is life for?  
 B.-THEREFORE; He became a priest of the new order.

He went "without the camp bearing his reproach"  
 Heb 13: New + living way New separation  
 C.-May OUR DEVOTION--cause us to do likewise in taking OUR stand!

1- Salvation - Ye must be born again  
 2- Separation - STAND break w/ God that which dishonors  
 cause us to study + know the Scriptures that well + let them determine our actions!

3- Sacrifice - 2 Sam. 24:24

4- Search the Scriptures and obey Go back to the BOOK  
 Study + know so Word of God orders the steps of the child of God

- Jn. 3:14
- 7:51
- Gen 22:14
- Ex. 12:6
- Dan. 9:24-27
- Lev. 4:12
- Acts 4:13
- Mk. 15:43
- Jn. 19:41

- Jn. 19:38
- Mk. 15:43
- Lk. 23:51
- Jn. 3:14-16
- Ps. 69:20-24
- Zech 12:10
- Ps. 22:16
- Isa 52:14
- 53:5-6
- 53:9

"...and Peter"  
 1 Pet. 2:9  
 2:5