

Digging Deeper: John 19:38–42

Written by Craig Corbin (Elder at MACC)

Day 1

Read John 19:38–42. Today, our focus is the burial of Jesus. What observations can you make? What is the significance of this passage of Scripture? Spend time praying to the Lord today, and prepare yourself for the week ahead. Give prayer to the solemnity of the event, and worship our King.

Day 2

Read John 19:38. Give some thought to our modern day funerals and to the burial of the Lord Himself. What are the similarities, and what are the differences? Today, study Philippians 2:6–11. How does this burial continue to demonstrate Christ's humiliation? Today, consider the cost of the cross.

Day 3

Read John 19:38. Spend time today learning about Joseph of Arimathea. Who is this man? What do we know about him? Today, make a character study of this man who overcame his fear to attempt to bring honor to the King of kings. What lessons does this provide to you today?

Day 4

Read John 19:39. Today's focus is on Nicodemus and the embalming. Go back to John 3, and read about Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night. Now fast forward to today's Scripture. Has Nicodemus been "born again?" Why or why not? Today, it's so appropriate to ask ourselves "have we been born again?" Seek the Lord today if you have any doubt at all. What a wonderful time to fall on our knees and give thanks to Him who leads us to salvation!

Day 5

Read John 19:40. Today, we focus on the preparation of the body for burial. Read through how the body was prepared. It's a good time here to go back to Isaiah 53, and read once more the prophet's description of the suffering of our Lord. When you attend a funeral, the stark reality of death stares at us. Give prayer today to the moment we must stand before the Father and what the price Jesus paid for us for our sin.

Day 6

Read John 19:41–42. The commentator Matthew Henry wrote about this:

“Thus without pomp or solemnity is the body of Jesus laid in the cold and silent grave. Here lies our surety under arrest for our debts, so that if he be released his discharge will be ours. Here is the Sun of righteousness set for awhile, to rise again in greater glory, and set no more. Here lies a seeming captive to death, but a real conqueror over death; for here lies death itself slain, and the grave conquered. *Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory.*”

Today, spend some time in humble amazement thinking of this: the death of death. Consider these words, as we will all face our last breath and the stopping of our heart beat. May the words of the Apostle Paul today stir our hearts to worship (1 Corinthians 15):

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown ^[a] a perishable *body*, it is raised ^[b] an imperishable *body*; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*. ⁴⁵ So also it is written: “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING ^[c] PERSON.” The last Adam was a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, ^[d] earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy one, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly one, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, ^[e] we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

The Mystery of Resurrection

⁵⁰ Now I say this, brothers *and sisters*, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does ^[f] the perishable inherit ^[g] the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I am telling you a ^[h] mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised ^[i] imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this ^[j] perishable must put on ^[k] the imperishable, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this ^[aa] perishable puts on ^[ab] the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: “DEATH HAS BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. ⁵⁵ WHERE, O DEATH, IS YOUR VICTORY? WHERE, O DEATH, IS YOUR STING?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH!

¹ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 2049). Peabody: Hendrickson.