

JOHN 19:38-42

THE BRIDGE
BETWEEN THE
CRUCIFIXION
AND THE
RESURRECTION

The Living Word: John's Gospel
(November 2, 2025)



**JOHN'S
ACCOUNT**

John's Account

John 19:38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. **39** Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. **40** So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. **41** Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. **42** So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

WHERE IS ARIMATHEA?

Theories:

- 1) Ramah in the hill country of Ephraim (birthplace and burial-place of Samuel)
- 2) Near Timnah on the borders of Judah and Dan.
- 3) Modern Beit Rima, a village on an eminence 2 miles North of Timnah.
- 4) Others incline to Ramallah, 8 miles North of Jerusalem and 3 miles from Bethel



Four Accounts in the Gospels

- Each of the four gospels record this account
- Each is unique in certain details

Matthew 21:57-61

Mark 15:42-47

Luke 23:50-56

John 19:38-42

Six Facets to Explore

- Joseph of Arimathea
- Request of Joseph to Pilate
- Pilate's Response
- The Timing
- The Others
- The Preparation for Burial
- The Burial



Christ with Joseph of Arimathea, oil on wood by Giovanni Girolamo Savoldo, c. 1525; in The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Joseph of Arimathea

Only mentioned in the gospel accounts

- Disciple of Jesus (Matthew, John) – but secretly for fear of the Jews
- Rich man (Matthew)
- Jewish town of Arimathea (all four gospels)
- Respected member of the council (Mark, Luke)
- Good and righteous man (Luke)
- Did not consent to the decision and action
- Looking for the kingdom of God (Mark, Luke)

The Request of Joseph to Pilate

- Matthew: When it was evening .. He (Joseph) went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
- Mark: Joseph of Arimathea took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
- Luke: This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
- John: (Joseph) asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus.

Pilate's Response

- Matthew: Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.
- Mark: Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.
- Luke: (silent)
- John: . . . and Pilate gave him permission.

The Timing

- Matthew: When it was evening ...
- Mark: And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath.
- Luke: It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning.
- John: So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they lay Jesus there.

The Others

- Matthew: Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.
- Mark: Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.
- Luke: The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.
- John: Nicodemus also, who *earlier had come to Jesus by night*, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.

The Preparation for Burial

- Matthew: And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud.
- Mark: And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud
- Luke: Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud
- John: So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

The Burial

- Matthew: And Joseph took the body ...and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.
- Mark: And Joseph ...laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.
- Luke: Then he took it down and wrapped him in a linen shroud and laid it in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.
- John: Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tombe in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they lay Jesus there.

