

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 08.27.2023

NOT ASHAMED - John 19:31-42

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us "The gospel, which means 'good news' is not only the foundation of our faith; it's the basis of our salvation and what we have been commissioned to take to the whole world. Knowing that to be the case, we should probably be clear about what the gospel is. So, what are the essential elements of the gospel? In 1st Corinthians 15, Paul articulates the essential components of the gospel when he says, 'Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.' {1st Corinthians 15:1-4} That's the gospel in a nutshell. The first part states that Christ died for our sins. His death was substitutionary. Then, three days later, He rose from the dead just as the Scriptures said He would. That's Easter. The tomb is empty. We get to look at that part of the story next week." Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel's sermon?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 19:31-37

Jesus Side is Pierced:

1. Why was there a rush to get the bodies down? 19:31 (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)
2. What evidence did John give of Jesus' death? 19:33,34
3. What made John's testimony so powerful? 19:35 (Cf. 21:24)

The religious leaders who were overseeing Jesus' execution wanted to make sure they had time to get home to celebrate the Passover with their families. That's why they asked Pilate to break the legs of Jesus and the other men being crucified. Once the victim's legs were broken, it hastened death because they could no longer push up on their legs to inhale.

4. Consider the fact that Jesus could have retaliated at any moment during His trial, scourging, or crucifixion because He had "all authority over mankind" and "legions of angels" at His disposal. What does that convey to you about Jesus?
5. Why is it important that we as Christians see God's holiness as His central attribute?
6. Besides giving proof of His death, why is it significant that Jesus' bones were not broken, and His side was not pierced? (19:36)?

• Exodus 12:43,46; Numbers 9:11-13; Psalm 34:20

“PROMISES” in 2023

- Zechariah 12:10

AS A GROUP READ JOHN 19:38-42

1. Who buried Jesus? 19:38,39 What phrases describe these men? (Consider the significance of what Jesus had said to Nicodemus in 3:14-17.)
2. Why were these men granted permission (19:38) to have the body? Mark 15:44-46
3. Underline the phrases that describe Joseph of Arimathea:

- Matthew 27:57 And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.
- Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
- Luke 23:50-51 And behold, a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man (51) (he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God

4. What adjectives would you use to describe the actions of Nicodemus and Joseph? 19:38-42
5. Where was Jesus buried? (Compare Isaiah 53:9)

For Your Information: “[Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus] were both secret disciples...and members of the Sanhedrin... Because it was the highest Jewish authority recognized by the Romans, those who belonged to it were powerful members of society. By asking for Jesus’ body...these men risked the enmity of their fellow Jewish leaders who had brought about Jesus’ death...

If they were prepared to do so much for a dead Jesus, how much more should we, who know Him as our risen Savior, do for Him?” - Africa Bible Commentary

“Their eagerness to claim the body of Jesus is little short of surprising since by so doing they openly declared themselves as sympathizers with His cause.” - Merrill Tenney (271)

Food for Thought: “The burial itself is important to the argument of John since it added one more witness to the reality of Jesus’ death. It is incredible that these two men should have handled Jesus’ body without knowing whether his death were actual or not. Furthermore, they never would have committed it to the tomb if they had not been convinced that the breath of life had departed.”

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

John calls Joseph ‘a secret disciple.’ That’s interesting to me. At conferences and in sermon’s we hear a lot about the need to go all in and be ‘sold out disciples’ for the Lord. Joseph was none of those things. He was a secret disciple. If he disagreed with the council’s decision to crucify Jesus, he did so quietly. Perhaps he just abstained from casting a vote. We can’t know for sure. What we do know is that we have no record of him publicly standing up or speaking out on Jesus’ behalf. We can’t be too hard on him though. After all, both he and Nicodemus had a lot to lose by going public with their faith. They were powerful, influential, respected members of the religious community. They had worked a lifetime to get where they were. All of that would be gone the instant they identified with Jesus. For a long time, Joseph’s fear was enough to keep him quiet, but when he saw the love of Jesus displayed on the cross, like Nicodemus, it drew him out and caused him to finally go public with his faith.

1. How does the fulfillment of prophecies about Jesus’ death impact you?

“PROMISES” in 2023

2. What is your biggest hindrance in seeking to be fully committed to Jesus Christ? How can you remove it?
3. Consider the words of missionary C. T. Studd, who gave away a fortune to follow Christ: “If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” What does the Lord want you to sacrifice for Him?

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times that we were too afraid of what others think about us to acknowledge You before them. Like Joseph of Arimathea, we were secret believers. But we know that there is no other salvation apart from you, you have the words of eternal life. We commit to following you all the days of our life. Help us to be bold for you Lord Jesus. We are thankful for all that you have done for us on the cross, we are forever indebted to your grace. You endured the pain and the shame of the cross for us. Thank you, Jesus!

“Whoever acknowledges Me before others, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven but whoever disowns Me before others, I will disown before My Father in heaven.” {Matthew 10:32-33}