

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #95

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 23:50-56

Sermon Date: Jul 29, 2007

Who Will Honor Our Lord?

The flag draped across the top of the casket is folded sharply into a triangle by an impeccable Marine. This red, white, and blue symbol of honor is graciously carried to the fallen soldier's weeping family. A 21-gun salute pierces the foggy morning, echoing across the countryside the honor of this man's sacrifice for his nation. Our military heroes are buried with honor.

But what about Jesus, who died to save so many? Would he be buried with honor? The body of one who was crucified would normally have been thrown on a trash heap as an intentional sign of disrespect. The crucifixion process was all about completely dishonoring someone. Would anyone step up and prevent our Lord from being further dishonored?

In this week's Bible study, we explore the scene following Jesus' death, and encounter a few unlikely heroes who take great personal risk to try to properly honor the Son of God.

What about you? Are you willing to face any risks in order to honor the one who saved you? By his Spirit, you can!

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

*South Shore Baptist Church
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-2592*

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have. Also read the three other gospel accounts to gain a broader perspective of this incident.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Luke 23:50-56</p> <p>⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. ⁵² Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.</p> <p>⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.</p>	

Matthew 27:57-60

⁵⁷ As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

Mark 15:42-46

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

John 19:31-42

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Closer:

4. What do you know about the man named Joseph referred to in Luke 23:50-56?

5. Who was Nicodemus, and what experiences had he had with Jesus prior to this burial scene? (read John 3:1-21, 7:45-52)

6. How did Joseph and Nicodemus honor Jesus?

7. How did the women in Luke 23:55-56 honor Jesus?

8. What do you notice about how Jesus was treated in this passage, and how it compares to his recent treatment up to this point?

9. Why is it significant that Jesus was buried?

10. How is Christ's burial related to baptism by immersion? (Explore Col 2:12, Rom 6:3-4ff, John 3:5, Titus 3:5b)

11. What do you see as the main point of this passage of scripture?

12. Joseph and Nicodemus are referred to as "disciples" of Christ. What is a disciple? How could you follow these two men's example and be bolder in following Jesus?

In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:33)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." (John 8:31)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

13. Joseph, Nicodemus, and the women **honored** Christ greatly by disregarding the personal risks involved and ensuring that he had an honorable burial. Jesus died for you also – how will you honor him in response?