



Caring for the Body of Christ Leader Guide Scripture References ESV By Sharon B. Rapp

Opening Prayer: Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found; Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound. Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son; As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.¹ Amen.

Introduction: It is a beautiful fall day in Israel. Our small faith-based tour group walks along the Mount of Olives toward Gethsemane, singing praise songs, rejoicing that our faith in Jesus' death and resurrection gives us salvation and a living hope. We visit possible crucifixion sites, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden Tomb, marveling at the courage of those who risked relationships, reputation, position, uncleanness — even life! — to honor our Lord at His death.

CARING FOR THE PHYSICAL BODY OF CHRIST

What do we learn about the care for Jesus' body provided by Joseph and Nicodemus in the following passages: **Matthew 27:55–61**; **Mark 15:40–47**; **Luke 23:50–56**; **John 3:1–16, 7:50–52, 19:38–42**? List several facts about the men, events and locations in the blanks provided. Consider: origins; resources; professions; relationship to Jesus; timing; requests made and to whom; action taken/care given; details of the tomb; and, additional information.

Note: The Scripture passages for this section are also found on pages 7–8 of this Leader Guide, along with a participant worksheet, page 9, both in a format suitable for printing for participants.

Note: Participants may answer by writing directly in the *Quarterly* or, if you so choose, may use the printed Scripture references and worksheet mentioned above.

Note: Answers (incomplete) prepared for the leader are found on page 10 of this guide.

Matthew 27:55–61 ⁵⁵ There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. ⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ 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. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Mark 15:40–47 ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹ When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem. ⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen

shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Luke 23:50–56 ⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

John 3:1–16 ¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 7:50–52 ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹ “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” ⁵² They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”

John 19:38–42 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.

Joseph of Arimathea

Nicodemus

Fine linen and large amounts of spices were not uncommon for a royal burial. Tombs were often hollowed out of rock and included shelves around the sides for the placement of bodies. The heavy stone used to close the tomb was likely several feet in diameter. It rolled in a hewn track and was used for keeping out animals.

What do you think prompted Nicodemus to seek out Jesus? _____

Answers will vary, but may include: sent as a spy for the Council; impressed with His reputation; wanting to learn enough to judge for himself about Jesus; seeking to learn if Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah; the call of the Holy Spirit (Jesus conveys the gospel to Nicodemus in John 3:16 and he later defends Jesus in Council).

Why might Joseph have kept his discipleship secret? See **John 12:42–43**. _____

Answers will vary, but may include: possibility of losing influence within the Council; fear of losing his wealth and position.

How might this have worked in his favor in asking for Jesus' body? _____

Answers may vary, but may include: Pilate might not have released Jesus' body to a known disciple. Pilate might have trusted Joseph not to be part of any trickery (see below).

John 12:42–43 ⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

To whom does Paul refer when he mentions Jesus' burial in **Acts 13:27–29**? _____ How does this information fit with the references to Joseph and Nicodemus? _____

People of Jerusalem and their rulers condemned Him; took Him down; laid Him in a tomb.

Acts 13:27–29 ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. ²⁸ And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

Use the scripture passages and categories above to locate information about the women involved.

What were the temple guards instructed to do in **Matthew 27:62-66** and why? _____

They sealed the stone and set a guard “lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’”

Matthew 27:62-66 ⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

In spite of the precautions taken, what did Mary Magdalene — one of the last to leave the cross and the tomb — discover when she returned to the tomb early on the first day of the week and what were her reactions (**John 20:1-18**)? _____ **Stone taken away; sees in tomb two angels in white; does not at first recognize Jesus; apparently touches Him; reports seeing Him to disciples**

John 20:1–18 ¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’—and that he had said these things to her.

Isaiah had prophesied: *And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, (53:5). Jesus is buried [in a rich man’s tomb]. By sharing our human grave, He sanctifies our tombs and makes them places where our bodies can rest, confident in the resurrection. [We] honor the faithfully departed by remembering their graves and by praying for their families. As Christ burst from His tomb, so shall He raise all the dead on the Last Day.*³

CARING FOR THE SPIRITUAL BODY OF CHRIST

*Paul repeatedly describes the Church as the Body of Jesus, believers united under one head.*² He writes to the Ephesians: *And he [God] put all things under his [Christ’s] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all (1:22–23).*

How are the members of the Body described in the following passages?

1 Corinthians 12:12–13, 24b–27 _____

Galatians 3:27–29 _____

Ephesians 4:4–6 _____

Colossians 2:9–12 _____

1 Corinthians 12:12–13, 24b–27 **One body of individual members, baptized, in one Spirit, created and sustained by God, no division, care for one another, suffer and rejoice together**

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ^{24b}But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Galatians 3:27–29 In union with Christ, neither Jew, Greek, slave, free, male or female, but all one; Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Ephesians 4:4–6 One body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, Baptism, God and Father of all over all

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Colossians 2:9–12 Buried with Christ, who is the head, in Baptism; raised with Him through faith

⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who [Christ] is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Using the analogy of the body, Paul expresses his concern for the unity of the church. What unities are described in **John 14:16–17?** _____ **1 Corinthians 10:16–17?** _____ **Romans 6:3–5?** _____ **1 John 1:8–9?** _____

John 14:16–17 The Trinity ¹⁶ And I [Christ] will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

1 Corinthians 10:16–17 The Lord’s Supper: one body, for we all partake of the one bread

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Romans 6:3–5 Our unity with Christ in Baptism and the resurrection to come

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

1 John 1:8–9 All have sinned. In the Divine Service, we confess, we are forgiven and receive absolution and we are in unity.

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

How are we to deal with other members of Christ’s Body?

John 13:34–35 _____

1 Corinthians 1:10 _____

Ephesians 4:1–3 _____

1 Peter 3:8–9a _____

John 13:34–35 Love one another — shows discipleship. ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Corinthians 1:10 Agree, have no divisions, be united in mind and judgment

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:1–3 Walk worthy of calling, with humility, gentleness, patience, in bond of peace

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Peter 3:8–9a Have sympathy, brotherly love, tender heart, humble mind — do no evil, but bless

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ^{9a} Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called,

The Church is the body of believers created and sustained by God (1 Corinthians 12), the new Israel (Galatians 6:16), people called together by faith through God’s Word and Sacrament. Christians share in (1) apostolic doctrine, (2) the Lord’s body and blood in Holy Communion, and (3) specific acts of mutual love.²

Create a short list of loving acts that can contribute to the unity of a congregation. _____

Born again of water and Spirit in Baptism, we live in the promise of forgiveness, salvation, resurrection, and eternal life. In repentance and faith, we — the Body of Christ — approach the table of the Lord’s Supper where we unite in receiving our Lord’s body and blood. And we care for Christ’s Body — local, national, international, universal — through the giving of our time, talents and treasures.

My student travel-study group and I are near the altar of Canterbury Cathedral when a prelate ascends the pulpit and motions for quiet. Speaking regretfully of a recent skirmish in a nearby capital, he asks that all those in his hearing pray together for unity, using the words of the Lord’s Prayer. Many languages surround us and differences in words are evident. In the rhythm of the phrasing and the pauses between, however, this huge group — unrehearsed — speaks in unison and arrives simultaneously at “Amen.”

When time allows: 1) Using a concordance, research one of the following: *adelphoi*, church, fellowship, member. 2) Examine one or more of the creeds and Divine Services for evidence of unity and/or caring. 3) Make an extensive list of ways to care for the Body of Christ, then choose one and put it into practice. 4) Select a hymn from the index topic “Church” and memorize one or more of its verses.

Closing Prayer: Forgive we now each other’s faults As we our faults confess, And let us love each other well In Christian holiness. Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease; Be God’s the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.¹ Amen.

Closing Hymn: Say or sing together verses one and six of “Our Father, Who from Heaven Above” (LSB #766; LW #431; TLH #458).

¹(LSB #845, verses 1 and 5; 3 and 4)

²“Key Terms and Phrases in Paul’s Epistles,” *The Lutheran Study Bible*, pages 1901-1904

³Note on Matthew 27:57-61, *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 1648

Participant Pages

Note: At the discretion of the leader, the following pages may be printed and handed to each person or small group.

Scripture References for Caring for the Physical Body of Christ – These are color coded to match the (incomplete) answers on the last page of this guide (which should withheld until your study time is completed).

What do we learn about the care provided by Joseph and Nicodemus in the following passages: **Matthew 27:57-61**; **Mark 15:42-47**; **Luke 23:50-55**; **John 3:1-10,7:50-52,19:39-42**?

Matthew 27:55-61 55 There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. 57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 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. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Mark 15:40-47 40 There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41 When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem. 42 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. 45 And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. 46 And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Luke 23:50-56 50 Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and

saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

John 3:1-16 1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 7:50-52 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, 51 “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” 52 They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”

John 19:38-42 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.

Facts and Info	Joseph	Nicodemus	Women
area of origin			
resources			
profession/ character			
relationship to Jesus			
timing			
request and to whom			
action taken/ care given			
details of the tomb and closure			
other info			

Mk-Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have already died and checked with centurion before releasing His body to Joseph. L-Joseph had not consented to the council’s decision and action. L-Nicodemus recognized that Jesus’ signs were evidence of a “teacher come from God.”

Facts and Info	Joseph	Nicodemus	Women
area of origin	Mt-Arimathea L-Jewish town		L- Galilee; Mt-came with
resources	Mt-rich	J3- ruler of Jews	
profession	Mk-respected member of Council L-Good, righteous man	J3-Pharisee; one of them (Council)	
relationship to Jesus	Mt-disciple Mk-looking for kingdom of God J19-secret disciple	J3-came to Jesus by night; J3-called Him “Rabbi”; J3- calls Him a teacher come from God; J3-says signs indicate God is with Him; J3-inquirer; J3-receives gospel 3:16 J19-evening	Mt-followed, ministering to Him; some named
timing	Mt-evening Mk-Day of Preparation (day before Sabbath) L-Sabbath beginning		Mt-many at cross looking from distance
request	Mt-take Jesus’ body Mk-took courage	J3-Information from Jesus Himself	
to whom	Mt-Pilate for permission	J7-Asks Council for Jesus’ fair treatment	
type of care	Mt-wrapped body in clean linen Mk-bought linen shroud; Mk-took body down; Mk-wrapped in shroud		L-saw how body laid; returned; prepared spices and ointments
action/s	Mt-laid in tomb; rolled disk; went away	J19-brought large amount of spices (mixture of myrrh and aloes) J19-helped to take body, wrap and lay in tomb	L-followed from cross to tomb Mk-saw where He was laid
type and location of tomb	Mt-his own new tomb Mt-cut in rock/L-in stone L-no one had ever yet been laid	J19-close to cross J19-in a garden	Mt-Mary Mag- lene and other Mary sitting opposite tomb
closure	Mt-rolled great stone to entrance Mk-rolled a stone		
other info	handling body would make unclean (Leviticus 21:11)		Lk-rested on Sabbath

Mk-Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have already died and checked with centurion before releasing body to Joseph. L-Joseph had not consented to the council’s decision and action. L-Nicodemus recognized that Jesus’ signs were evidence of a “teacher come from God.”