The Burial of Jesus: Grief, Obedience, and Waiting



Explore the burial of Jesus through themes of grief, quiet obedience, and waiting on God in Matthew 27:57–66 across 7 days.





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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day journey through the burial of Jesus, a profound moment in the Gospel narrative. Here we encounter deep human emotions such as grief; the humble, quiet obedience of Joseph of Arimathea and others; and the spiritual discipline of waiting on God's timing. As we focus on *Matthew 27:57–66*, this passage invites us to step into the raw reality surrounding Jesus' death — a time of sorrow but also a prelude to hope and resurrection.

The burial of Jesus is often overshadowed by the crucifixion and resurrection, yet it holds powerful lessons. Joseph of Arimathea demonstrates courage and faith by approaching Pilate to claim Jesus' body, risking association with a condemned man. Nicodemus assists respectfully despite the risks. Their actions show us how grief can manifest not only in tears but in faithful service and obedience, even when unseen or uncelebrated.

Additionally, the story teaches about waiting on God's plan. The disciples and followers are enveloped in a silence punctuated by uncertainty. The sealed tomb and guarded stone symbolize the tension between despair and anticipation. We are reminded that sometimes God's work involves patient waiting, teaching us trust beyond immediate understanding.

Throughout this study, allow yourself to enter into the emotions and actions of the people involved. Reflect on your own experiences with grief, moments when obedience felt difficult, and times when you had to wait on God's







timing. May this study deepen your faith and prepare your heart to encounter the hope wrapped in the sorrow of Jesus' burial.















Your Verse

Matthew 27:57-59 NIV - "As evening approached, there came a rich man... took Jesus' body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth."

Supporting Scriptures

- John 19:38 "Joseph of Arimathea... asked Pilate for Jesus' body."
- Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."







Devotional: Embracing the Weight of Loss

Grief often arrives silently but powerfully, especially when loss is sudden and profound. In the moments following Jesus' crucifixion, those who loved Him grieved deeply. Joseph of Arimathea's act of taking Jesus' body reflects this grief—not just sorrow, but a tender respect and honor in the face of tragedy.

Many of us resist grief, fearing the pain it brings. Yet this passage shows that grief has a sacred place in God's plan. It is a response to real loss and an expression of love. It is important to allow ourselves to sit with grief, to honor it as part of the process of healing.

Remember, the psalmist reminds us that God is near to the brokenhearted. In your moments of sorrow, do not feel alone. Embrace grief as a passage, not a prison. Let it move you toward healing and deeper trust in God's presence.







Reflect and Apply

	How do you usually respond to grief—do you avoid it, embrace it, or something else?
	What can Joseph of Arimathea's actions teach you about honoring those you love, even in difficult times?
3.	How does knowing that God is close to the brokenhearted bring comfort to your personal losses?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe a time when you experienced deep grief. How did you respond?
2.	Write about what it means to give honor and respect in times of sorrow.
3.	Reflect on ways God has been near you during moments of sadness.







Prayer for Today

Lord, in times of grief, help me to trust Your closeness. Teach me to honor my feelings and those I love with grace and courage. May I know Your comforting presence even when my heart feels broken. *Amen.* \bigwedge \heartsuit

















Day 2: Quiet Obedience of Joseph

Your Verse

Matthew 27:58 NIV - "Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him."

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 23:50–52 "Joseph... went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body."
- Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."







Day 2: **(Quiet Obedience of Joseph)**

Devotional: Courage in Silent Service

Joseph of Arimathea's obedience was quiet but bold. Despite the risks associated with being publicly linked to Jesus, Joseph acted with courage and faithfulness. He didn't make demands or protest loudly; he simply followed his convictions, asking Pilate for Jesus' body and caring for it with reverence.

This kind of obedience often goes unnoticed in our culture that values loud declarations and visible achievements. Yet the Kingdom of God frequently advances through humble acts of faith and service.

Today, consider areas where God is calling you to quiet obedience. Maybe it's a difficult conversation, a step of kindness, or standing firm on a principle without fanfare. Trust that God honors these faithful moments and uses them for His glory.







Day 2: **()** Quiet Obedience of Joseph

Reflect and Apply

	What does Joseph's example teach you about courage in doing what is right?
2.	Are there moments when you have been called to 'quiet obedience'? How did you respond?
	How can you cultivate a heart that serves God faithfully without seeking
	recognition?







Day 2: **(i)** Quiet Obedience of Joseph

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time you acted in faith quietly and what happened.
2.	List areas in your life where God might be calling you to obey humbly.
3.	Reflect on how you can honor God through everyday acts of service.







Day 2: **()** Quiet Obedience of Joseph

Prayer for Today

Father, grant me the courage to obey You quietly but faithfully. Help me to serve with humility and trust that You see and value my faithfulness, no matter how small the act. *Amen.* (1) 10

















Day 3:

Waiting in the Silence

Your Verse

Matthew 27:60 NIV - "...placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock and rolled a big stone in front of the entrance."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."
- Lamentations 3:25 "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him."







Day 3:

Waiting in the Silence

Devotional: Strength in Patient Waiting

The sealed tomb represents a time of waiting filled with uncertainty. For Jesus' followers, all hope seemed buried alongside their Lord, concealed behind a heavy stone. Yet, this waiting held its own spiritual lessons.

Waiting on God is often uncomfortable and tests our faith. It requires strength to be still, patience to trust unseen promises, and hope that rises despite the silence. The psalmist encourages us to "wait for the Lord" with courage and confidence, knowing God's timing is perfect.

In seasons of waiting, engage your faith actively by praying, reflecting on God's Word, and trusting His character. The wait is not empty; it is preparation for God's mighty work to unfold.







Day 3: 🕰 Waiting in the Silence

Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you typically handle waiting periods in your spiritual journey?
2.	What helps you remain hopeful when God's answers seem delayed?
3.	In what ways can waiting be an act of faith rather than frustration?







Day 3: 🕰 Waiting in the Silence

Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe a time when you had to wait on God. What did you learn?
2.	Write about what 'waiting with hope' means to you personally.
3.	List scriptures or promises that encourage you during times of waiting.







Day 3:

Waiting in the Silence

Prayer for Today

Lord, teach me to wait on You with patience and hope. Give me strength when uncertainty is heavy and faith to trust in Your perfect timing. *Amen.* $\mathbb{Z} \bigwedge$ 6

















Day 4: Respect Amidst Rejection

Your Verse

John 19:40 NIV – "Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen... according to Jewish burial customs."

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
- Hebrews 13:16 "Do not forget to do good and to share with others."







Day 4: 🧛 Respect Amidst Rejection

Devotional: Honoring Jesus in Humble Ways

Even when society rejected Jesus, His followers showed Him honor and respect through their actions. Joseph and Nicodemus prepared Jesus' body with care, following burial customs that expressed love and dignity.

This reverence teaches us about honoring God — even in circumstances where it may be inconvenient or socially risky. Their devotion reminds us that love often expresses itself through simple, tangible acts of care and respect.

Consider how you can show respect and love to others who feel rejected or overlooked. Our small acts often reflect the heart of Christ and can become profound witnesses of faith.







Day 4: 🧛 Respect Amidst Rejection

Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you demonstrate honor and respect to others in your daily life?
	Are there people or situations where showing respect is difficult for you? Why?
3.	What does honoring others teach you about God's heart?







Day 4: 🧛 Respect Amidst Rejection

Journaling Prompts

	Write about a time you were able to show deep respect or love to someone rejected by society.
2.	Reflect on ways to show Christ's love through practical actions this week.
3.	List qualities that make your acts of love meaningful to others.







Day 4: Respect Amidst Rejection

Prayer for Today

God, help me to honor and serve others with love and respect. May my actions reflect Your heart, especially toward those who are overlooked. Amen.























Your Verse

Matthew 27:65-66 NIV - "Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard... go. Make the tomb as secure as you know how."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 91:4 "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."
- Isaiah 41:10 "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God."







Devotional: Confidence in God's Sovereignty

The authorities placed guards and sealed the tomb to prevent anything from happening to Jesus' body. Human efforts tried to control the situation, but God's sovereignty was at work beyond their understanding.

We often face times when we feel we must 'guard' our own hearts or circumstances. Yet, Scripture reminds us that God is our refuge and protector. Even when situations seem dire or beyond our control, He watches over us faithfully.

Let this passage encourage you to place your trust fully in God's protective hand, releasing fear and embracing His peace.







Reflect and Apply

	In what areas of your life do you try to control outcomes instead of trusting God?
2.	How can you lean more fully on God's protection and sovereignty?
3.	What fears can you surrender to God today?







Journaling Prompts

Write about a situation where God's protection was evident in your life.
Reflect on fears you need to release to God.
List ways you can practice trusting God more deeply every day.







Prayer for Today

Lord, I surrender my fears and trust in Your protection. Guard my heart and lead me in peace, knowing You are sovereign over all. *Amen.* • \(\mathbb{\mathcal{L}} \)









Day 6: P Hope Beyond the Stone









Day 6: \to Hope Beyond the Stone

Your Verse

Luke 24:1–3 NIV – "The women found the stone rolled away from the tomb... but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus."

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Peter 1:3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection."
- Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."







Day 6: \to Hope Beyond the Stone

Devotional: Resurrection Hope Emerging

Though the burial seemed like the end, the story continues with resurrection and hope. The stone rolled away signals that death could not hold Jesus, and so hope emerges victorious over despair.

As we live with grief and uncertainty, remember that God's promises transform even the darkest moments. The empty tomb stands as a symbol of new life, restoration, and joy.

Embrace this living hope each day, letting it shape your faith and perspective.







Day 6: 🖓 Hope Beyond the Stone

Reflect and Apply

1.	How does the resurrection story bring hope into your current struggles?
2.	In what ways can you live as a person transformed by hope?
3.	What areas of your life need the renewing power of Christ's resurrection?







Day 6: 🖓 Hope Beyond the Stone

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time God brought hope in a hopeless situation.
	Reflect on how resurrection hope influences your outlook on life and death.
3.	List ways you can share this hope with others in your community.







Day 6: \to Hope Beyond the Stone

Prayer for Today

Jesus, thank You for conquering death and giving us hope. Fill my heart with joy and peace, empowering me to live boldly in Your resurrection power. *Amen.* \Box \Box \Box

















Your Verse

Romans 8:25 NIV - "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
- James 5:7-8 "Be patient... until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop."







Devotional: Living Faith in Times of Waiting

Our study concludes with a powerful call to live faith that waits with hope and trust. Like the followers of Jesus who waited for the resurrection, we are invited to embrace the tension of not yet while holding fast to God's promises.

Faith requires patience, confidence, and endurance. It chooses to trust God's timing even when circumstances seem stagnant or confusing. This is not passive waiting but active hope—rooted in God's character and Word.

As you move forward, carry with you a faith that waits eagerly, trusts unwaveringly, and looks confidently toward God's unfolding plan.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What does patient faith look like in your daily walk with God?
2.	How can you apply the example of waiting in hope to current challenges?
3.	In what ways can your faith encourage others who are struggling?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe how you can develop greater patience in your faith journey.
2.	Write about a promise from Scripture you are trusting God to fulfill.
3.	Reflect on ways to encourage others to trust God during difficult times.







Prayer for Today

Father, strengthen my faith to wait patiently and trust Your plans. Help me to live each day with hope and confidence in Your faithful promises. *Amen.* \triangle







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