

“Joseph of Arimathea”

Read John 19:31-38

³¹Then the Jewish leaders, because it was the day of preparation, asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for that Sabbath was a high day. ³²So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man, and the second crucified with Him; ³³but coming to Jesus they saw that He was already dead, so they did not break His legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately came out blood and water.

³⁵He who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”

³⁸Then Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jewish leaders, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

Study Questions

1. Who was Joseph of Arimathea, and what is he historically known for in this passage?
2. How did Joseph become wealthy while in relationship with the Roman Empire? How did this make him uniquely important?
3. What did we learn regarding the need to break the legs of those crucified? How was Jesus different than the two thieves beside him? What did Pastor say that Jesus actually died from, and how was the eyewitness testimony in the Gospel of John proof of this?

4. Match the Scripture with prophesy about Messiah's death or qualifying descriptor by drawing a line from one to the other. There can be more than one match.

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| a. Psalm 34:19-20. | pierced |
| b. Revelation 1:7. | bones not broken |
| c. Zechariah 12:9-10. | with wicked & rich man |
| d. Isaiah 53:8-9. | poor in spirit |
| e. Matthew 5:3. | Joseph's character |

5. What are some lessons to be learned from Joseph of Arimathea's life?