



Sermon Series: John - The Word of Life - Part 58

Message: "From Dark to Light"

Text: John 19:31-42

Date: 04/02/2023

- ★ John's purpose for writing was to connect people to Jesus! (Jn 20:30-31)
- ★ John was writing to Jewish Christians being kicked out of their synagogues (Jn 9:22)

John 19:31-42

- (v31a) "day of Preparation" = Friday; "Sabbath" = Saturday
- (v31b) "bodies left on the crosses" - see Deuteronomy 21:22-23
 - Concerned that the bodies would desecrate the land, and the special Sabbath
- (v34) "pierced Jesus' side" - a way of testing whether or not Jesus was really dead
 - Parallels the preparation of Old Testament lamb sacrifices - they needed to ensure a *living sacrifice* (see also Romans 12:1-2)
- (v35) John insisted on the death and humanity of Jesus because false teachers in his day were saying otherwise
- (v36) compare with Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20, Zechariah 12:10 (and Revelation 1:7)
- (v38) "Joseph of Arimathea"
 - Member of the Jewish Sanhedrin (highest ranking Jewish authorities)
 - Secretly a disciple of Jesus!
 - Joseph witnessed the trials and death of Jesus but didn't want Jesus to be crucified (Luke 23:51)
- (v39) "Nicodemus"
 - Also a member of the Sanhedrin!
 - Also secretly a disciple of Jesus! (this is inferred from context)
 - Remember him from John 3:1-15 and John 7:50? Seems that Nicodemus went from darkness to light (literally and figuratively!)
- (v41) "new tomb" - owned by Joseph (Matthew 27:60)
- Others were there: Servants of Joseph & Nicodemus (assumed), Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph (Mark 15:47)

Consider This: What are we willing to do for Jesus? Are we busy with the things that matter?

- Going Deeper -

For individual or small group study

1. READ Deuteronomy 21:22-23. As horrible as it sounds, the Israelites hung people on a pole either as a means of execution or a public display of humiliation. What seems to be the reason for taking criminals down from the pole?
2. READ Esther 7:1-10. Impaling people on poles was something various ancient cultures did, as seen here with King Xerxes of Persia. Why was Haman impaled on the pole?
3. READ Galatians 3:10-14. Paul quotes Deuteronomy 21:23 here. What did the “curse” mean in Deuteronomy and what does Paul mean that Jesus became a “curse” for us?
4. READ Zechariah 12:10. Who is the one being pierced? READ Zechariah 13:1. How might this relate to Jesus on the cross (John 19:34)?
5. READ John 3:1-15, John 7:45-52, Matthew 26:57-59, John 18:28, John 19:4-6 and John 19:39-42. How did Nicodemus go from darkness to light (unbelief to belief in Jesus)? What can we learn from Nicodemus?
6. Would you agree that one of our biggest roadblocks for serving Jesus is our own busyness? What can we do about that?

Recommended Resources

- *NIV Faithlife Illustrated Study Bible*, christianbook.com, <https://bit.ly/3kxieXw>
- “Overview: John 13-21” by Bible Project, search on YouTube