

For Further Study

Week of 3/24/13

1. Churches tend to give their attention to Good Friday and Easter while not reflecting on the events of Saturday. Why do you think that is?
2. While Jesus experienced literal death, what metaphoric deaths did his followers experience? What sort of conversations do you think they had with each other on Saturday?
3. Have a volunteer read Mark 15:42-26.
4. Pastor Mike noted that Roman and Jewish laws were in conflict regarding the handling of Jesus' body. Read Deuteronomy 21:22-23. Roman law, meanwhile, required the body to remain on the cross until it rotted off. What would motivate Pilate, a Roman official, to violate Roman law and surrender the body to Joseph of Arimathea?
5. Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin, the high religious court of the Jews. Why was he an unlikely ally of Jesus? By asking for the body he implicated himself as one of Jesus' followers. Read Mark 14:66-72. Joseph succeeded where the disciples failed. What do you think gave Joseph courage?
6. Read John 19:38-42. Nicodemus, the Pharisee Jesus had a midnight meeting with, helped with the burial. What is the significance of Mark mentioning so many unlikely allies in the account of Jesus' burial?
7. Jesus' burial appeared to signify God failing everyone who put their trust in his son. When are we most likely to feel like God failed us? How do you tend to react when it seems like God is letting you down? How can we remind ourselves that God is often present but hidden from our view when we suffer?
8. How can our faithfulness to God when it *appears* he let us down encourage others?
9. Pastor Mike detailed the physical abuse Jesus's endured during his trials and death as well as the process used to secure the heavy stone in front of the tomb. How do these details help refute the theory that Jesus didn't die but instead passed out and didn't revive until he was inside the tomb?
10. Read Revelation 1:17-18. What does Jesus say his death accomplished?
11. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-19. Why does our faith depend on Jesus' death and resurrection?
12. Read Romans 6:1-14. How does Paul use Jesus' death to explain our relationship to sin?