

Luke 23:50-56
Proof of His Death

Introduction: This takes place during the late afternoon to early evening of April 3, 33 AD.

1) See the courageous ministry of Joseph—23:50-53

- a) Who is Joseph? 23:50-51 ⁵⁰ *And behold, a man named Joseph,*
 - i) A prominent member of the Sanhedrin—*who was a Council member*, (cf. Mark 15:43)
 - ii) A man of integrity—*a good [agathos] and righteous [dikaios] man*
 - (1) Evidence? ⁵¹ *(he had not consented to their plan and action),*
 - iii) A man of Judea— *a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews,*
 - iv) A man of hope—*who himself was also anticipating the kingdom of God,*
 - v) A man of wealth—cf. Matt. 27:57
- b) What does Joseph do?—23:52-53
 - i) Remember that he goes with Nicodemus (cf. John 19:38-41)
 - (1) Together they carry about 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes, an extravagant gesture of devotion.
 - (2) Perhaps Jesus had planned this ahead of time as He had everything else? (cf. John 19:38, perfect passive of krupto “kept secret, hidden”)
 - ii) He boldly identifies with Jesus—23:52 ⁵² *this man, having approached Pilate, requested the body of Jesus.*
 - (1) This was after the Romans had verified that Jesus was dead and pierced His side with a spear (cf. John 19:33-34; Zech. 12:10)
 - (a) Pilate was surprised Jesus had died so quickly. (cf. Mark 15:44)
 - (b) This kept His legs from being broken in fulfillment of Ps. 34:20
 - (2) This was in obedience to the Law (cf. Deut. 21:22-23)
 - (3) Mark says it was with courage (cf. 15:43). The eleven are nowhere to be seen.
 - iii) He respects the body of Jesus—23:53 ⁵³ *And having taken it down,*
 - (1) This act renders both Joseph and Nicodemus ceremonially unclean. They probably washed the dried blood off His body.
 - (2) They do two things
 - (a) *he wrapped it in linen*
 - (b) *and placed it in a rock-hewn (cave) tomb,*
 - (i) *where **no one** (emphatic, a triple negative) had ever yet been laid.*
 - (ii) The grave site was close to The Skull (John 19:42)
 - (3) Matthew and Mark both record the placing of a large stone over the door.
 - (4) This fulfills Isaiah 53:9

2) A chronological note—23:54

- a) When did Joseph and Nicodemus do these things?—23:54
 - i) ⁵⁴ *And it was the day of preparation,*
 - ii) *and the Sabbath was about to begin/dawn.* (just prior to 7 pm)
 - (1) The Sabbath dawned at dark (Magill)
- b) The next day the chief priests and Pharisees, out of fear, demand the tomb be sealed to prevent the disciples from stealing His body (cf. Matt.27:62-66)

3) See the considerate ministry of the women—23:55-56

- a) Who are these women?—23:55a ⁵⁵ *Now the women who had accompanied Him out of Galilee followed* (Joseph),
 - i) At least Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses (Mark 15:47)
- b) What do these women do?—23:55b-56
 - i) They pay careful attention—*and they took notice*
 - (1) *of the tomb*
 - (2) *and how His body was placed.*
 - ii) They make careful preparation for their intended work—⁵⁶ *Then, having returned, they prepared aromatic spices and fragrant ointments.*
 - (1) The Jews did not practice embalming, so these preparations were used to cover the stench of decay and slow decomposition. The women planned to return and anoint the body. (NET)
 - (2) The women do not seem to be expecting a resurrection any time soon.
 - iii) They demonstrate careful obedience to the Word—*And on the one hand they rested **on the Sabbath** (emphatic) according to the commandment.*
 - (1) Luke completes the “on the other hand” in 24:1
 - (2) Mark reminds us they purchased and prepared more spices and ointments Saturday night after the Sabbath was over (cf. 16:1)

4) Things for us to remember:

- a) What witnesses do we have that Jesus really died?
 - i) The trained Roman executioners verified that He was dead
 - ii) Two prominent members of the Sanhedrin verified that He was dead
 - iii) The chief priests and Pharisees verified that He was dead
 - iv) The women from Galilee verified that he was dead
- b) Jesus dies as a criminal but is buried with honor.
- c) The One who is the way, the truth, and the life is now dead, all because of your sin and mine. But a dead Savior is no savior at all. Thankfully Luke does not end his account with chapter 23.