**The Burial of Jesus**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:42-47;**

**Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42**

**Bible Story Number: 2010460**

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**The Burial of Jesus**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This story includes some details that may be unfamiliar to present-day hearers. For example, spices and perfumes were customarily used to prepare a body for burial.

Another example is the use of a tomb carved out of rock. Joseph is identified as a wealthy man. This type of tomb would have been costly and normally used only by a wealthy person. Joseph was able to provide this type of tomb.

The religious leaders were familiar with what Jesus had foretold about his resurrection. They knew that he had clearly said beforehand that he would come back to life on the third day. The chief priests and the Pharisees were afraid that his disciples might steal his body and claim that he had come back to life. They tried to prevent such a plot.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42**

This is what the Bible says.

Joseph was a rich man from Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin, who had become a follower of Jesus. He went to Pilate and requested that the body of Jesus be released to him so he could bury him. At first, Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. He checked with the soldier in charge and confirmed that he was dead.

Then Pilate gave the order and his body was released to Joseph.

Nicodemus also came to help Joseph. He brought a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. These were traditionally used to prepare a body for burial.

Joseph took his body down. They applied the spices and wrapped his body in clean, fine linen. Joseph placed the body in a new tomb that had been cut into the rock. He had a large stone placed against the entrance to the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were there. They saw how his body was placed in the tomb. They returned and prepared spices and perfumes that would traditionally be used to prepare a body for burial. Then they rested on the Sabbath as the Scriptures command.

The day after Jesus was crucified, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate and told him that Jesus had said he would rise again after three days. They asked Pilate to secure the tomb to prevent his followers from stealing the body and making claims that he had risen. They said that would only make matters worse.

So Pilate ordered soldiers to guard the tomb. He told the religious leaders to secure the tomb and do everything they could. They sealed the stone and set the soldiers in place.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Who asked Pilate to release Jesus’ body for burial?
* How was Joseph described?
* Why did Pilate hesitate when he was asked to release Jesus’ body?
* Who helped Joseph with the burial?
* What were the chief priests and the Pharisees concerned about?
* What did Pilate do to secure the tomb?
* What does this story teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.