

Matthew 27 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John 19

1. The timing is between 3 pm and 6 pm – Friday
 - the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath
 - the burial is urgent
 - a) a body cannot remain on the cross; this Sabbath is a high day (Feast of Unleavened Bread)
 - b) Jesus has to be buried Friday (Sunday = 3rd day)
2. Joseph of Arimathea
 - = a rich man
 - = a prominent member of the Sanhedrin
 - = looking/waiting for the kingdom of God
 - = a good and righteous man
 - = had not consented to the Sanhedrin's actions
 - = had become a disciple/follower of Jesus
 - = secretly for fear of the Jewish leaders
 - gathers up his courage and asks/begs Pilate for Jesus' body
 - Pilate is surprised that He is already dead
 - the centurion confirms Jesus' death
 - Pilate orders that the body be given to Joseph
 - he takes Jesus' body down from the cross and wraps it in a clean linen cloth
 - he carries it to the tomb nearby
 - it was Joseph's own new tomb
 - it was hewn out in the rock
 - no one had yet been laid in it

3. Nicodemus also comes with Joseph
 - = had first come to Jesus by night
 - = a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, a member of the Sanhedrin
 - = the teacher of Israel
 - he brought about 100 lbs (or 75 lbs) of a mixture of myrrh and aloes
 - they bind Jesus' body with bands/strips of linen with the spices
 - they lay (=a careful and thoughtful placing) Jesus in the tomb
4. the women
 - who had come with Jesus from Galilee
 - Mary Magdalene and the other Mary
 - follow Joseph and Nicodemus to the tomb
 - are sitting in front of the grave looking on
 - "see" the tomb and how the body was laid
 - = to look at intently, to fully see
 - inspect, gaze upon the body to see that it is properly laid in place
 - leave and prepare spices and perfumes with which they plan to anoint the body on Sunday
 - on the Sabbath they rest according to the commandment

5. Joseph rolls a large stone against the entrance of the tomb
6. On the Sabbath the chief priests (Sadducees) and Pharisees meet with Pilate
 - ask that Pilate secure the grave until the 3rd day
 - Jesus had said He would rise on the 3rd day
 - they intend to prevent even the appearance of a resurrection
 - if the disciples are able to steal the body they could claim that Jesus had risen
 - they say this deception would be worse than the first (~ that He is Messiah, the Son of God)
 - they make the grave secure by:
 - 1) setting a seal on the stone
 - = probably a cord across the stone sealed on both ends by Pilate's officials
 - = a legal seal authenticating that
 - the tomb had been properly inspected
 - everything before sealing was in order
 - as long as the seal remains unbroken the security of the tomb is guaranteed
 - 2) placing a guard at the tomb
 - = a group of four soldiers (16 total)
 - guard the tomb in three-hour shifts
 - the tomb is watched 24 hours a day by attentive and fully alert soldiers