

Saturday, April 11 ~ Joy Comes in the Morning ~ John 19:38-42

The day was filled with the most traumatic and distressing events. Jesus, whom they believed to be the Messiah, had been crucified on a cross between two other criminals. Although His final hours were during the middle of the day, the sky was dark when Jesus committed His spirit unto God and took His last breath. Joseph and Nicodemus worked quickly to give Him a proper burial before the start of the Sabbath at sundown. As the darkest day became the darkest night, how these men, along with Jesus' disciples, must have grieved. Some of them had heard Jesus say that three days after He was killed, He would rise from the dead. Some of them had even watched in amazement as He raised Lazarus from the dead. But at this time, their faith was buried in the spiritual darkness of doubt and hopeless despair. They wept that evening over the death of their friend, their teacher, their rabbi, their Savior. But on Sunday morning, when they discovered the tomb was empty, they rejoiced. Jesus was alive!

In the morning we will once again celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Our Messiah has defeated sin and conquered death and the grave. His victory is complete. When we focus on what Jesus has done for us, we can find joy in all circumstances, even the hours, days and weeks of darkness. When we place our faith and trust in Jesus, He can turn the ashes of fear, disappointment, abandonment, depression, disease, and even death into joy because we know He loves us, walks with us, and will one day escort us into heaven. Indeed, weeping may come in the night, but joy comes in the morning!!

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The Burial of Jesus

³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.^[a] ⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Footnotes:

- a. [John 19:39](#) Or about 34 kilograms