

Context

- 1] The crowds that hung on His words the day before had apparently turned against Him as Jesus was being crucified.
- 2] only two have expressed in Him
 - a) the thief on the cross 'remember me when you come in your Kingdom
 - b) the centurion who glorified God and recognised Him as righteous.

The man (50,51)

- 1] **Named Joseph** (50a)

Nb sounds like Hebrew 'taken away' Rachel on the birth of Joseph named him such because 'God has taken away my reproach' (Gen 30:22-24)

??? very important – named in all 4 Gospels (Matt 27:57; Mk 15:43; Jn 19:38)???

Nb The burial of Jesus following death was vital for an attested resurrection

- 2] **From the Jewish town of Arimathea (50b)**

Nb Means 'city of the Jews' – situation unknown

To the Jew first, then to the Greek (Rmns 1:16)

- 3] **Member of the council (50c)**

Nb Sanhedrin – the supreme court of the Jews cf 22:66)

- 4] **A good and righteous man (50d)**

- a) good

i.e. decent

- b) righteous

i.e. Luke, from school of apostle Paul, means 'perfect before God'

nb There is no one righteous (Rm3:10

By the obedience of one man, many will be made righteous (5:19)

For in (the Gospel), a righteousness is revealed that is by faith from first to last, as it is written "the righteous will live by faith" Rom 1:17)

Privileged, wealthy, powerful, religious? – you too may be included

- 5] **who had not consented to their decision and action (51)**

- a) all had consented (22:70 cf Mk 14:64) – so Joseph absented self?

Believers – do not consent to the rejection/persecution of Jesus whatever the cost

- b) decision - to find Him guilty of claiming to be the son of God (22:70,71)

i.e. of blasphemy (Mt 26:65)

- c) action – accusing Him of treason before Pilate

i.e. misleading nation, forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar saying he himself is Christ, a king (23:2)

- 6] Looking for the kingdom of God

= a follower of Jesus (Mt 27:57; Jn 19:38)?

Cf I must preach the Good News of the kingdom of God (4:43)

Nb Jesus is King of the Jews(23:3,38)

God reveals His Kingdom.* *Jesus is King

None is excluded from the kingdom of God neither the poor (the thief on the cross nor the rich)

The action (52, 53)

- 1] **Went to Pilate (52a)**

Nb the Roman governor of Jerusalem

Be bold/ be public in your service of Jesus. (not just 'the church!)

- 2] **Asked for the body of Jesus (52b)**

Nb *unusual* – discarded bodies of criminals to the rubbish dump, ‘Gehenna’. (by word for Hell)
This a ‘celebrity’ crucifixion – body not simply discarded

3] Took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud (53a)

Nb *Holy garment of priest on day of atonement made of linen (Lev 16:4,32)*
Jesus is our great high priest (Heb 4:4ff)
(we are buried with Christ (Rom 6:4)

4] Laid him in a tomb cut in stone (53b)

Nb *made for himself (Mt 27:60) - rich man’s tomb – completely secure*
cf birth a refugee laid in a feeding trough (2:7)
“Jesus deserves your best”

5] Where no one had been laid (53c)

Nb *such tombs for families i.e. multiple use. The body placed on a slab and the tomb closed, After time, when body decomposed, tomb was reopened and bones placed in a box at the back*

The onlookers (54-56)

1] It was the day of preparations and the Sabbath beginning (54)

Nb *Sabbath went from 6.00 Friday evening – 6 o clock Sat – no work done. Preparation day was the day before)*

2] The women who had come with Him from Galilee (55a)

Nb *those who had supported Him with their own means (Lk 8:2,3; 23:49)*

3] Saw the tomb and how His body was laid (55b)

I.e. placed in a tomb on slab then closed over

4] They returned and prepared the spices and ointments (55c)

Nb *ointments to cover the dead body*
Never give up on Jesus

5] On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandments (56)

Cf the fifth commandment (Dt 5:12)
Always be prepared to serve Him
Obey Scripture

Conclusion -

1] The Gospel is to the Jew first

2] Then to any of the faithful who are prepared to follow and watch. Are you?

I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Greek (non-Jew). For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, The righteous shall live by faith’ (Rmns 1:17,18)

Summary

Joseph was a Jew, a member of the council and one who believed in Jesus. He had not agreed with their action against Jesus as he was waiting for Him to be revealed as King. (50,51)

Requesting the body from Pilate, he took it down, wrapped it in linen and placed it in a virgin tomb. It was preparation day and the Sabbath was beginning. (52-54).

The women from Galilee watched where He was laid, then went back and prepared the spices and ointments (55,56)
They obeyed the commandment and rested on the Sabbath (57)

MP *It is evident that Jesus died for us and His body was buried*

KV *Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb cut in stone where none had ever been laid. (53)*