

March 29, 2015

“Eyewitness Views”

Eyewitness: Pastor Dan

Part 6

“By Night or By Day?”

“Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus’ body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night.”
John 19:38-39

*The Death of Jesus: Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47;
Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42*

A. Jesus’ death...

1. Darkness fell on the earth from noon until three!
2. Jesus cried out his final words of victory!
3. The curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom!
4. There was an earthquake!
5. Tombs were opened and men and women were raised from the dead, they left the cemetery after Jesus’ resurrection and appeared to many.
6. A Roman officer acknowledged this was “The Son of God!”
7. His bones were not broken but his side was pierced as water and blood spilled out!
8. His body was wrapped and placed in a new tomb.

B. Jesus’ words teach us...

1. *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”* - His forgiveness gave us the

ability to forgive! We need to let go of bitterness and forgive those in our world.

2. *“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”* – His mercy gave us the ability to extend mercy and love to those in your world.
3. *“Here is your mother.”* – Amidst all his suffering he always considered others, so, stay focused on the needs of others and you will be blessed.
4. *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* – Because he faced the bitter “cup” of suffering, we are never alone no matter what we face!
5. *“I am thirsty.”* – Jesus was human and He suffered! Don’t thirst for this world but for the things that are eternal.
6. *“It is finished.”* – He completed the work God called Him to complete. What is God calling you to complete? Be patient God is not finished yet...with others or with you!
7. *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”* – Jesus willingly surrendered. We, too, must willingly release everything into God’s hands!

C. Jesus had two secret followers who came forward...

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1. Joseph of Arimathea – An honored member of the Sanhedrin. A wealthy man who gave his tomb for Jesus who had not agreed with the decision or the actions of the Sanhedrin.
2. Nicodemus – A member of the Sanhedrin who brought enough spices for Jesus’ burial to bury a king!
3. Both Joseph and Nicodemus had feared the opinion of others or the loss of reputation. They

didn’t agree with what was happening but they were silent...until now!

4. They both came out of the night into the day...unashamedly following Jesus!

D. Will you follow by night or by day...

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9

1. God is calling us to step out of darkness and to not be afraid of what others think!
2. God is calling us to step out of darkness and to be willing to share our faith with others!
3. God is calling us to unashamedly give of ourselves and our resources to make a difference in the Kingdom.
4. God is calling us to reach our world for Jesus Christ!