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After the evening with His Eleven and His prayers, Jesus was arrested. There were the six different ‘trials’. Then Jesus was sentenced to death, and He died a criminal’s death on a cross. Now we read of two men, Joseph of Arimathea (a town about 20 miles NW of Jerusalem) and Nicodemus a leading Pharisee, volunteering to bury Jesus’ dead body. Joseph was rich (**Mt. 27:57**), a prominent member of the Sanhedrin (**Mk. 15:43, Lk. 23:50**), a good and righteous man who apparently had not agreed with the Sanhedrin’s decision to condemn Jesus (**Lk. 23:51**). Either he had absented himself from the meeting of the Sanhedrin (or never been invited!) or he had sat silent through it all. He was waiting for the kingdom of God (**Mk. 15:43**). He was also a disciple of Jesus (**Mt. 27:57**), although a secret one because of his fear of the

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NLT 31 It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was the Passover). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. 33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. 35 (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.) 36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken," 37 and "They will look on the one they pierced." 38 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. 39 With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. 40 Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. 41 The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. 42 And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

JBP As it was the day of preparation for the Passover, the Jews wanted to avoid the bodies being left on the crosses over the Sabbath (for that was a particularly important Sabbath), and they requested Pilate to have the men’s legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers went and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to him, they saw that he was already dead and they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there was an outrush of blood and water. And the man who saw this is our witness: his evidence is true. (He is certain that he is speaking the truth, so that you may believe as well.) For this happened to fulfil the scripture, ‘Not one of his bones shall be broken.’ And again another scripture says—‘They shall look on him whom they pierced.’

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