

B. God is not just in the business of saving people far from God. He is also in the business of saving religious people who are trusting in themselves instead of God.



Mark 15:42-47 – The Burial Of Jesus

November 15, 2020

Life Group Questions

1. What stood out in this message? What did you learn you didn't know?
2. In this message we learned how God works in the world in more than miraculous ways. He is at work providentially guiding the choices of hearts and the outcome of events. Define providence in your own words. Why is providence an important source of hope and comfort in the Christian life? How can providence be misunderstood and descend into fatalism?
3. Read Romans 8:28 and Genesis 50:20. What do these verses teach us about God's providence and the way it works in everyday life? How do these verses give us hope in uncertain times?
4. **OPTIONAL:** Read Job 1:12 and Job 2:6. What do these verses teach us about God's providence in our suffering? What do these verses teach us about where we should turn for relief in that suffering?
5. Read Genesis 22:13. What does this verse teach us about the way God uses providence to direct our everyday choices to be in God's will? Have you experienced this kind of providential guidance? Share your story with your life group.
6. Read 2 Kings 19:27-28 and Habakkuk 1:6, 12 and Proverbs 21:1. What do these verses teach us about God's providential control of our nation and the heart of our leaders? Why is God's providential control of our nation and leaders especially important at this juncture in history?
7. Jesus didn't come to just save people who are far from God. He also came to save religious people who are trusting in themselves instead of God. How does Jesus' burial show the members of the Sanhedrin trusting in their traditions and good works instead of God? How do Joseph and Nicodemus model what it means to trust in Jesus, instead of our traditions and works to be made right with God? In what ways does the modern church slip into thinking and acting like the Sanhedrin of Jesus' day?
8. Were you able to invite anyone to church in the last two weeks? Were you able to share the gospel with anyone in the last two weeks? Two weeks ago we practiced sharing the gospel using the story of the two thieves who hung on the cross next to Jesus. Have you forgotten how to share the gospel using that story? If you need to see it again, watch the following short video. "https://youtu.be/nEccW_6SqEs" Practice sharing the gospel using the story of the two thieves with your life group.

How is God at work in the world?

- **God works miraculously.** God interrupts, suspends, or overrules the natural order of things. He injects himself into the actions of the world to change things in a way that can not be explained by human behavior or natural process.
- **God works providentially.** God accomplishes his plans, purposes, promises, and prophecies not by interrupting the natural order of nature but by pulling together the free actions of people, events, and circumstances with meticulous precision in such a way that what happens in the world is exactly what God purposed and promised would take place.

How was God providentially at work in the burial of Jesus?

1. The Roman soldiers providentially fulfilled God's will after Jesus' death.

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30 (ESV)

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. John 10:17-18 (ESV)

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. John 19:31 (ESV)

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. John 19:32-33 (ESV)

But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. John 19:34 (ESV)

Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair... Psalm 69:20 (ESV)

He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” John 19:35–37 (ESV)

He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Psalm 34:20 (ESV)

It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. Exodus 12:46 (ESV)

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child,... Zechariah 12:10 (ESV)

2. Joseph of Arimathea providentially fulfilled God’s will after Jesus’ death.

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,... Mark 15:42 (ESV)

Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Mark 15:43 (ESV)

Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. Mark 15:44 (ESV)

And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. Mark 15:45 (ESV)

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Isaiah 53:9 (ESV)

For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Matthew 12:40 (ESV)

And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mark 15:46 (ESV)

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. John 19:38–39 (ESV)

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. John 19:41 (ESV)

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. Mark 15:47 (ESV)

3. What lessons can I learn?

- A. **God is at work in the world through more than just miracles. God is also at work through providence. God achieves his purposes by guiding the free choices of people and the outcome of events.**

The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)