



The End Is Just the Beginning

March 30 & 31, 2013

[John 19:38-42](#)

³⁸ Later, 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. ³⁹ He 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. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At 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. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19:38-42 NIV)

Consider & Discuss

1. What do you think sets Christianity apart from other religions? Jesus' resurrection? Something else? Why?
2. Do you think the historicity of Jesus' resurrection is important to the Christian faith? Why or why not?
3. What do you think are the strongest arguments for the historicity of Jesus' resurrection? Why?
4. Why do you think many people are reluctant to identify themselves publicly as Christians?
5. What do you think motivates people to overcome their fear and publicly associate themselves with Jesus?
6. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is alive? How does that belief, or how should that belief, affect your life?

Live It

1. If you don't believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead, why not? Find someone who does and ask them to help you work through your objections.
2. If you do believe that Jesus died and rose, but you're afraid to tell other people, what are your biggest concerns? Seek out someone you trust and ask them to pray for you about those fears.
3. If you're not afraid to tell others about your faith in Jesus, gently encourage others to do so by telling them what difference faith in Christ makes in your life.