

Holy Saturday

38 After all this, Joseph of Arimathea (he was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he was intimidated by the Jews) petitioned Pilate to take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph came and took the body.

39-42 Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, came now in broad daylight carrying a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. They took Jesus' body and, following the Jewish burial custom, wrapped it in linen with the spices. There was a garden near the place he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been placed. So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it.

John 19. 38-42. from The Message

Have you ever done anything secretly?

How did you feel?

How do you think those two followers felt about what they were doing?

What challenge does Jesus give us in this passage?

How will you respond?

What picture of Jesus are you seeing in this reading?

You may want to write your thoughts about this down. It is called journal-ing and it is very 'in' at the moment; or you may well not. Either is fine, after all this is your journey.

There are other readings set for today if you want to read some more.

Job 14.1-14: Psalm 31. 1-4, 15-16: 1 Peter 4.1-8.

A Meditation

After the agony, the emptying and
the yielding up, darkness falls -
a final curtain.....

Except, for Joseph and Nicodemus,
the darkness is not an ending but
an opportunity...

(Without hurrying,
picture the anxious request to Pilate;
imagine the weight of the embalming spices;
understand how the cloak of darkness,
far from impeding their activity,
provides safe cover for the lifting,
the arranging, the laying to rest,
the offering of this last act of dignity
to him who was wholly good
and wholly God.)

Loving God, I offer to you all
my good intentions, best efforts,
earnest hopes and acts of love
which didn't seem to make much of a difference.
I place them with the spices, the linen and the tears
that tomorrow, or in your good time,
I may share your resurrection joy.

Ian Fosten

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