



## GROW AT HOME

## DAILY DEVOTION

## DAY 25

## READ

JOHN 19:38-42

## FOCUS

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> TAKING JESUS' BODY, THE TWO OF THEM WRAPPED IT, WITH THE SPICES, IN STRIPS OF LINEN. THIS WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH JEWISH BURIAL CUSTOMS. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> BECAUSE IT WAS THE JEWISH DAY OF PREPARATION AND SINCE THE TOMB WAS NEARBY, THEY LAID JESUS THERE.

## REFLECTION from PASTOR MOI NAVARRO

Once Jesus was crucified, it was time to bury Him. Joseph of Arimathea pleaded with Pilate, asking if he could take Jesus' body and bury Him. Pilate conceded and gave the okay for Jesus to be buried. Nicodemus also joined Joseph, and he brought all of the spices, oils, and fragrances that were needed for a proper Jewish burial. I cannot help but wonder what was going through Nicodemus and Joseph's minds. What were they thinking? What were they feeling? These were men that had face-to-face conversations with Jesus. They secretly followed Him and believed--to a certain point--in who He was, and what He was about. Maybe they felt sorry for Him. Maybe there was still a little bit of belief in who He was. Or perhaps, they had just grown such a love for Him, that they wanted to help out with a nice burial. In any case, there must've been so many questions running through their minds.

I find it mind-blowing, in this time of quarantine, how I feel myself identifying with Joseph and Nicodemus as I bury the things that I once would have bet so much money would've lasted forever. In these last few weeks, I have put to death many things--like the way I'm used to doing life. I've taken those little things for granted: being able to just hang out with friends, being able to go to work and be around people, being able to go to church, and just simply hugging people. I know some of you have had to lay to rest your jobs, your companies, school, travel, vacations, bucket list goals, concerts--the way life used to be. Some have even lost loved ones. We have questions about what will happen and how tomorrow will be. At the same time, new things have come to life. The air is less polluted. I've gotten to ride bikes with my boys. I've grown and learned how to connect with others in different ways.

So, this is where it gets a little interesting for me. I cannot help but notice that Joseph and Nicodemus are burying Jesus--but they bury Him in a place where no one had ever been laid down before. I ask myself, "Why in a place where no one had ever been laid down before?" There's so much in this passage that we can learn about the fulfillment of prophecy, tradition, Passover, or Jewish culture, but I just want to focus on that small little detail. Why would they bury Jesus in the place no one had ever been buried before? Why? Because the writer directs our attention to it to make a point. I say we should do the same. We should take our burdens, our losses, and bury them in a different place. Jesus was buried, but unlike everyone else that has ever been buried, He wasn't going to stay there; Jesus would rise from the dead, He would resurrect. So, I guess in a sense, I want to challenge us that we lay to rest our losses and our fears in a place where nothing else has been buried before.

There's going to be a resurrection in the things that we have had to let go of because of this quarantine. It's already happening. We've had to let go of certain things, and we have found new life, new energy, new passion, new hope, and new ways of figuring out how to do life. There's so much more to come. As we hold on to Jesus and His resurrection, He turns graves into gardens. I know that this time we are going through right now might seem like a time where we lay things to rest, but out of that death, there's a resurrection that we can look forward to. Because JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING!



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## DAILY DEVOTION

## DAY 25

REFLECTION from PASTOR MOI NAVARRO (CONT'D)

## QUESTIONS

- WHAT HAVE YOU HAD TO LAY TO REST IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS?
- HOW HAS GOD BROUGHT (OR HOW CAN YOU SEE HIM BRINGING) NEW LIFE FROM THOSE "DEATHS?"

## SONG OF THE DAY

LISTEN ALONG ON YOUTUBE | [HTTPS://BIT.LY/SCGWORSHIP](https://bit.ly/scgworship)

GREAT THINGS // SCG WORSHIP (PHIL WICKHAM COVER)