International Bible Lesson
International Bible Study Commentary
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Buried Like A King
John 19:28-42

And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight (John 19:39—KJV).

Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight (John 19:39—NASB).

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds (John 19:39—NRSV).

Jesus died the day before the Sabbath, and according to the law His body needed to be removed from the cross before nightfall on Friday. Jesus gave up His spirit with enough time for Joseph of Arimathea to ask Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body down from the cross and for Nicodemus to bring a hundred pounds of spices to a new tomb that had never been used. In John 12:32-33, Jesus prophesied, and John explained, "'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die." Joseph and Nicodemus were wealthy men who were secret disciples of Jesus. Joseph and Nicodemus were also respected members of the Jewish Council. After Jesus died on the cross, both were still so drawn to Jesus that everyone soon learned they wanted to honor

Jesus as the King of the Jews. They did not know that Jesus would rise again, but they hurriedly made certain that after His death He would be buried as a king. Joseph provided an expensive new garden tomb with a stone that could securely close the entrance. Nicodemus provided a hundred pounds of spices, an amount provided only for the wealthiest and most important religious and political leaders. By doing so, they were some of the first to be drawn more closely to Jesus after the Romans lifted Him up on a cross. Pilate crucified Jesus as a king and Joseph and Nicodemus buried Him as the King that God sent to save the world.

Thinking Further

1. Give two reasons why you think Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

2. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “It is finished”? How did Jesus die?

3. How did the soldiers make certain Jesus had died? What did their action teach?

4. What did John say about his testimony? What does his testimony mean to you?

5. Who helped with Jesus’ burial? What did they do?

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