

Our faithful love of the Savior is not always expressed in bold proclamations – but often in lowly, quiet service pursued in spite of the cost.

Background/Introduction: Luke 22:22 Jesus "goes as has been determined"

I. In The Shadow – Jesus In Death

A. The physical *reality* of Jesus' death

1. Part of the Christian witness

- In scripture, creeds & proclamation (1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 8:34)
- Death confirmed by soldiers (John 19:34)

2. Practical implication

- A real body that knows real death
- Jesus was truly *incarnate!*

B. The spiritual necessity of his death

1. An atonement for sin

a. You shall surely *die*

- Genesis 2:17
- It is "the wages of sin" (Romans 6:23)

b. In *our* place

- If wages must be paid, someone must die
- 1 Corinthians 15:3 Jesus must die.

c. The Lamb of God

- John 1:29; Matthew 20:28

2. Resurrection reality

- If He did not die, He cannot "rise"
- No "first-fruits" (1 Corinthians 15:16-20)

II. Out Of The Shadows - Joseph

A. A bold request

1. Request before Pilate

a. Take the body down to bury it?

- Pilate's surprise (Mark 15:44,45)

b. Why take it down?

- Desecrating the Sabbath of the land? (Deuteronomy 21:22)
- **To honor the Lord!**

2. Fulfilling the scriptures (Isaiah 53:9)
 - Crucial to what follows

B. The cost of discipleship

1. Financial?
2. Reputation/career
 - One who "rises up" (2:34)

C. Taking his stand at the cross

1. For a "lost cause"?
 - No anticipation of a resurrection
2. No hiding in the shadows
 - Identifying himself with Jesus
3. *Honoring* Christ in His death
 - fulfilling the scripture (Isaiah 53:9)
 - Is he defiled?

Application:

1. Have you taken your stand at the cross? Or are you still trying to live in the shadows?
2. Do we seek to keep our eyes on the promise of God, when it doesn't look like you expected?

III. The Women - Under the Shadow

A. Faithful followers

1. Remembering Jesus' ministry to them
2. Their ministry to Jesus now
 - Identification – they would not be far off now!
 - They *loved* Jesus in return

B. Full of compassion

1. What they couldn't do
2. What they could do
 - a. Follow - see where he was laid
 - No mistake when they return
 - b. Prepare - to honor Him
 - c. Honor Him - by keeping His command

IV. Dispelling The Shadows

1. Death still *overshadows* this life.
 - But it is only a shadow that passes over His children.

2. Our works need not be "great" to shine the light into the darkness.