

## **Matthew 27:57-61**

### A Tomb Secured

*Jesus lifted up ...*

#### I. Confirmation

- A. Jesus is Dead
- B. We Have a Body

#### II. Closure

- A. Unlikely Disciples
- B. Mournful Women

#### III. Concealment

- A. The Tomb
  
- B. The Mystery

*... and laid down. (there's that moment of doubt)*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. How do we know that Jesus was really dead?
  
2. Which two men came to bury Jesus?
  
3. What were the chief priests and pharisees afraid of?
  
4. What did Pilate do when they told him about their fear?
  
5. Why is death sometimes called "sleep" in the Bible?

## **A Proper Burial**

The darkness has lifted and the scene is grim. In the light of day Jesus hangs lifeless on a cross. The afternoon would be consumed with emotion as eyewitnesses of the crucifixion of Christ began to disperse. Some would be dramatically moved, the fearful disciples would slip into hiding, haters would continue to hate, and lovers would mourn the horrific loss of their beloved Rabbi. Jesus' death has been confirmed, but there was still the matter of his body. Two men were reverent enough to make sure Jesus was provided with a dignified burial. One of them, a wealthy man named Joseph, courageously approached Pilate to ask if he might have the privilege of arranging the affair. He was granted permission and he, along with Nicodemus, proceeded to very personally provide for the Lord the Hebrew tradition of interment. They wrapped Jesus in a shroud and laid him to rest in cave-like tomb and sealed it. Two women, both Marys, witnessed the mournful process. At the same time paranoid enemies of Christ managed to secure guards to watch for suspicious activity. Jesus' corpse was thoroughly hidden in the sepulcher. No eye could see and no mind could imagine what God had in store for the body so carefully concealed behind the great stone that had been rolled over the entrance to the tomb that held the remains of the Son of God.