



Life Church Sermon Sheet:

Date: December 15th (thanks Andrew) , 2019
 Rev. M. Dixon (for the superstar Crystal Dixon)

Title: **Jesus Burial- Matt 27: 57-66**
Jesus' Death and Burial Pt. 3
Preparing for the Storms
Being Resilient Gardeners!

Matthew 13:31-33 New American Standard Bible (NASB)
 31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; 32 and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE [a]AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

So you may have heard this one A riddle for you- The man who built it doesn't want it, the man who bought doesn't need it, the man who needs it doesn't know it. What is it?



Background:

Burial- had 2 parts- 1. The drying of the corpse and 2. the collection of the remains into a smaller box an ossuary. Their size (20-to-32 by 12-to-20 by 10-to-16 inches) was dictated by the measurements of skull and femur bone.

Review:

1. Resiliency requires seeing the big picture and taking steps to prepare.

Scientists have been risking their lives recently just to get some rare types of rice and grains that are in war zones, and in dangerous places physically for the sake of biodiversity. We know what we need scientifically, we have to plan ahead and do dangerous work to get what we need for seed. This new seed is needed because the older seeds are not as resilient to new situation and diseases.

2. Crystal talked about Resiliency last week. This week I am talking about how does our Garden Grow. A seed does not bear fruit unless it is planted into the ground and dies. Planting requires preparation. We talked about the preparation Jesus went through before his death, I wanted to talk about the preparation that went into his burial.

3. Prayer is an incremental means of sowing that is vital for us to depend on God and build on a rock (in preparation for storms) , while sowing on truly good soil (that our gardens may prosper) . The hanging gardens were built on a man made structure. God needs us to till the LAND we are given and not complain about it but see it as opportunities.

Luke 6:46-49 46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and [a]acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who [a]dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the [a]torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the [a]torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great." (NASB)



Matt: 13:7-9 7 Others fell [a]among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8 And others fell on the good soil and *yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. 9 He who has ears, [b]let him hear." (NASB)

4. Examples of a Gardeners of lives

Joseph of Arimathea's Prep	Jon Dorenbo's (a concrete example of a resilient Gardener)
1. He was rich... That takes prep	1. Started in Tragedy
2. He went to Pilate (he was able to get an audience.. May have taken prep)	2. Needed to escape Got into Magic
3. Asked for Jesus' Body wanted to get work done before Sabbath- He knew what he wanted to plant!	3. Added Football to his Garden
4. He took the body and Wrapped it and prepped it.	4. Went on America's Got Talent
5. Laid it into his own, never used tomb (took sacrifice and prep)	5. Got traded but was happy- Almost died
6. Rolled a large stone	6. Wrote a book: Life is Magic
7. Went away to observe the sabbath.	7. Quit Football, now a speaker about all he has overcome.

Your Turn :

1. If you had an infinite amount of money and time, what things would you put in a garden? _____
2. What things would you have to prepare against?

3. When the storms come, what would you have to do to prepare for them?

4. When the storms were too big for you to withstand, and things get destroyed and die, what attitude should you have? _____
5. Now in your own life: What things should be in your garden? Football, Magic, Church, Family, Job?

6. What things may need to die soon so other parts of your garden may flourish?

7. What are some storms you may face and how can you prepare for them?

8. What Land has God given you? What makes it unique? What unique Storms can you have? How can you rejoice in both? How you're your garden Grow?

