

10. **Joseph Of Arimathaea Had Planned His Burial** (Mt 27:57) This man was “*Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_.*” (V58) “*He went to \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.*” (V60) He “*laid it in his \_\_\_\_\_, which he had \_\_\_\_\_ out in the \_\_\_\_\_.*”
11. **A Pertinent Point** Jesus was recruiting disciples and commented (Lk 9:58) that “*Foxes have \_\_\_\_\_, and birds of the air have \_\_\_\_\_; but the Son \_\_\_\_\_ hath not where to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.*” One man said (V59), “*Lord, suffer me \_\_\_\_\_ to go and \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_.*” Jesus replied, “*Let the dead \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_: but go thou and \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God.*” Jesus meant that the “spiritually dead” could bury the physically dead.
12. **Was Jesus Insensitive?** No! (Lk 19:10) He came “*to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ that which was lost*”. Jesus wept! Several times the NT records that Jesus was “*moved with compassion.*” How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Peter records that (1 Pet 5:7) “*he \_\_\_\_\_ for you.*”
13. **What Did Jesus Know?** Jesus understood of the dead (Eccl 9:6) that “*neither have they \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ forever in \_\_\_\_\_ that is done under the sun.*” He taught that the primary concern should be for lost souls. “*Let the dead bury their dead*” merely means the spiritually inactive (ie: dead) could attend this job. Jesus knew that all of the eulogies, praise, tributes, floral arrangements and music are only cultural accommodations to comfort the survivors.
14. **Jesus Knew** He understood: (Eccl 9:4) “*For to him that is \_\_\_\_\_ to all the \_\_\_\_\_ there is \_\_\_\_\_.*” He knew (Lk 12:15) that “*a man’s \_\_\_\_\_ consisteth not in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the things which he \_\_\_\_\_*” and said one had to put God first (Lk 14) or “*he \_\_\_\_\_ be my \_\_\_\_\_.*”
15. **What About “Putting Away” Our Dead?** (a) It must be done for sanitation purposes. SEE Q. #2. Bodies decay rapidly. (b) Some were embalmed. Some were not. (c) Burial in the ground has historically been the most economical and expedient method to dispose of dead bodies. (d) Almost all funerals have *cultural origins*. (e) It should be done respectfully out of memory of the deceased one and with consideration for grief stricken relatives and friends.
16. **Does God Prescribe Rules For Disposing Of The Dead?** No! We have given biblical examples of historical burials in this lesson. Some were accomplished expeditiously, without ceremony (eg: John the Baptist; Jesus). Others were more elaborate (eg: Jacob’s). Our life is the important thing – not our death. (Micah 6:8) “*What doth the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, but to \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ with thy God?*” Paul said (Titus 2:12) that “*we should live \_\_\_\_\_, righteously, and \_\_\_\_\_, in this \_\_\_\_\_ world.*”
17. **What If One Is Lost At Sea?** It happens! (Rev 20:13) “*And the \_\_\_\_\_ gave up the \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_.*” Does being “buried at sea” impact the disposition of man’s immortal spirit in any way? \_\_\_\_\_ What about the 1,700+ bodies that haven’t been recovered from the World Trade Center calamity on September 11, 2001? Does this impact the disposition of their immortal spirits? \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 10:28) “*Fear not them which \_\_\_\_\_, but are \_\_\_\_\_ to kill the soul.*” What if one’s body is consumed in a hotel fire, a volcanic eruption, or is cremated? Will this affect the disposition of his immortal spirit in any way?
18. **The Bodily Resurrection** (Jn 5:28-29) “*The \_\_\_\_\_ is coming, in the which \_\_\_\_\_ that are \_\_\_\_\_ shall hear his voice, and shall \_\_\_\_\_.*” (a) Only God could reconstitute bodies long turned to dust, consumed by fire, eaten by animals, or assimilated by plants for their own growth. (b) “*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*” Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_
19. **Summation** (a) Space prohibits more expansion of this subject. Read carefully (1 Cor 15:36-58). (b) God leaves funeral arrangements and the erstwhile disposal of our dead to man’s judgment and preference. (c) It is our choice to bury or cremate, read scriptures, sing songs, assemble floral arrangements, give eulogies, or wordlessly dispose of our departed. (d) God takes care of the final disposition of man’s immortal spirit. He states (Ezek 18:4) that “*all souls are mine.*” (e) Life is precious. The least we can do is be extremely respectful when it flees the mortal frame.