

## Disposal of the body

by [J. Barrie Shepherd](#) in the [April 1, 2015](#) issue

So Jesus' wealthy friends did prove useful in the end.  
All four narratives seem to agree on this.  
Joseph, after all—the one from Arimathea, not his Dad—  
Joseph pulled strings with Pilate. Did he have to call in  
a few favors earned in questionable ways  
so he could claim possession of the corpse?  
Old Nicodemus too, Jesus' night-shift friend from the Sanhedrin,  
Nicodemus makes his own fleeting reprise,  
carting along a ton—almost—of fragrant spices,  
nard and myrrh (again!), for preservation purposes.  
Although where he got such pricey stuff,  
late on a holiday Friday afternoon, is never quite explained.  
And that convenient, fresh-hewn, garden tomb;  
even back in the day, sepulchres such as those  
did not come ten-a-penny! Add in all the hired help  
they must have needed to get stuff from here to there  
and, of course, to roll and seal that massive rock . . .  
Whole thing makes you wonder—doesn't it?—  
wonder if that narrow needle's eye got prized wide open—  
camel-size, at least—to accommodate these late allies.