

# Matthew 27:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

## Analysis

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**He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus** (ἵτήσατο τὸ σῶμα)—the Greek aitesato means earnestly requested, even demanded as a favor. Roman law allowed family or advocates to claim executed bodies. Joseph's boldness contrasts with the disciples' fear and hiding. **Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered**—only after confirming death with the centurion (Mark 15:44-45).

This detail confirms Jesus truly died—not swooned or fainted. Pilate's surprise at the rapid death (typically crucifixion took days) prompted verification. The centurion's testimony closed all doubt. Joseph's request transformed Jesus from executed criminal to honored deceased, preparing for royal burial that befit the King of Kings.

## Historical Context

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Roman governors could grant bodies to relatives or advocates as political favor. Pilate had already declared Jesus innocent three times, so granting the body involved no legal risk. The speed of Jesus' death (six hours) was unusual—likely due to prior scourging, the crown of thorns, and carrying the cross. His voluntary surrender of life (John 10:18) fulfilled Scripture.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

## **Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds**

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## Study Questions

1. How does the verification of Jesus' death refute theories that he merely revived from unconsciousness?
  2. What gave Joseph courage to ask Pilate when all the apostles were in hiding?

## Interlinear Text

οὗτος	προσελθὼν	τῷ	Πιλᾶτος	ἡτήσατο	τὸ	σῶμα	τοῦ
<b>He</b>	<b>went</b>	G3588	<b>Pilate</b>	<b>and begged</b>	G3588	<b>the body</b>	G3588
G3778	G4334		G4091	G154		G4983	

σῶμα  
the body  
G4983

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