this view be objected to, yet she could not  
be named here, nor in **Mark,** except separately from these three—for she could not have been well included among those  
who ministered to Him. There must have  
been also *another group,* of His *disciples,*within sight ;—e. g. Thomas, who said,  
‘Except I see in his hands the print of the  
nails,’ &c., and generally those to whom He  
afterwards shewed his hands and feet as a  
proof of His identity.

**57—61.**) JOSEPH OF ARIMATHÆA BEGS, AND BURIES THE BODY OF JESUS. Mark  
xv. 42—47. Luke xxiii. 50—56. John xix.  
88—42. The four accounts, agreeing in  
substance, are remarkably distinct and independent, as will appear by a close comparison of them.

**57.**] *Before sunset,*  
at which time the sabbath, and that an  
high day, began: see Deut. xxi. 23. The  
*Roman custom* was for the bodies to remain on the crosses till devoured by birds of prey. On the other hand Josephus  
says that the Jews were so careful about  
burying that they took down even  
those who had been crucified, and buried  
them before sunset.

**came**] probably *to the Prætorium.* Meyer supposes, *to the  
place of execution:* which is possible,  
and seems supported by *“came and took  
down,”* John ver. 38, and *“there came  
also... .”* ver. 39, which certainly was  
to *Golgotha.*

**a rich man**—he was also a *counsellor,* i.e. one of the Sanhedrim: see Mark, ver. 43: Luke, ver. 51.

**Arimathæa**] Opinions are divided  
as to whether this was Rama in Benjamin  
(see ch. ii. 18), or Rama (Ramathaim) in  
Ephraim, the birth-place of Samuel. The  
form of the name is more like *the latter.*

**58.**] The repetition of **the body**  
is remarkable, and indicates a common  
origin, in this verse, with Mark, who after  
**gave** expresses **the body,** on account of  
the expression of Pilate’s surprise, and  
the change of subject between.

**59.**] John (ver. 39) mentions *the arrival of  
Nicodemus* with an hundred pound weight  
of myrrh and aloes, in which also the Body  
was wrapped. The Three seem not to be  
in possession of this— nor St. Matthew and  
St. John of the subsequent design of the  
women to embalm It. What wonder if,  
at such a time, one party of disciples  
should not have been aware of the doings  
of another? It is possible that the  
women, who certainly *knew what had  
been done* with the Body (see ver. 61),  
may have intended to bestow on it more  
elaborate care, as whatever was doné this  
night was *hurried,*—see John, vv. 41, 42.

**60.**] St. Matthew alone relates that it  
was Joseph’s *own* tomb. St. John, that it  
was *in a garden,* and *in the place where He  
was crucified.* All, except St. Mark, notice  
the *newness* of the tomb. St. John does  
not mention that it *belonged to Joseph—*but the expression *“in which was never man yet laid”* looks as if he knew more than he has thought it necessary to state. His  
reason for the Body being laid there is,  
that *it was near,* and the Preparation  
rendered haste necessary. But then we  
may well ask, How should the body of an  
executed person be laid in a new tomb,  
without the consent of the owner being  
first obtained ? And who so likely to  
provide a tomb, as he whose pious care  
for the Body was so eminent?

All that we can determine respecting the  
sepulchre from the data here furnished is,  
(1) That it was not a *natural* cave, but  
an *artificial excavation* in the rock. (2)  
That it was not cut *downwards,* after the  
manner of a grave with us, but *horizontally,* or *nearly* so, into the face of  
the rock—this I conceive to be implied in  
*“rolled a great stone to the door,”* as also  
by the use of *“stooping down,”* John xx.  
5, 11, and *“ went in,”* ib. 5, 6.

(3) That it **was** *in the spot* where the crucifixion took place. Cyril of Jerusalem speaks of “ the tomb close by, where He was  
laid, and the stone which was put on the  
door, which to this day (about 380 A.D.)  
lies by the tomb.”

**61.**] St. Luke mentions more generally *the women who came”  
with Him from Galilee ;* and specifies that