The Man Who Buried Jesus

Shawn Jeffries · Mark 15:42–47

INTRODUCTION

- Before Jesus can come out of the tomb, on that faithful Sunday morning 2,000 years ago, he first had to be buried in it.
- This man, Joseph of Arimathea, is the man that God providentially used to bury the body of Jesus.
- There are at least four lessons that we learn about discipleship and following Jesus when we study very carefully what the Holy Spirit has revealed to us about the man who buried the body of Jesus.

1 Discipleship Often Involves Having Courage

Mark 15:43; Romans 5:6–7; John 19:38

- Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the council who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God, and he gathered up courage.
- That word courage that is used there in the text is a word that means to be bold. It means to take a risk, it means to act even in the midst of fear and danger.
- Hey, Pilate, I'm with him. I'm affiliated with somebody who has been crucified by the government, and I want to bury him with honor.
- John says that Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple, but a secret one for fear of the Jews.
- Do we right now need to stop being secret disciples and gain the courage to boldly tell people around us, I'm with Jesus.
- I care more about what Jesus thinks of me than what you think of me.

2 Discipleship Involves a Willingness to Sacrifice

Mark 15:46; Luke 23:53; Matthew 27:57

- Joseph bought a linen cloth, took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb which he had hewn out in the rock, and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.
- Laid him in a tomb cut into the rock where no one had ever lain.
- Matthew tells us that in addition to being on the Sanhedrin Council, Joseph was also wealthy.
- He was willing to give up his tomb to bury Jesus. He sacrificed his own tomb to bury the Lord.
- Both Joseph and Mary sacrifice something costly to honor the Lord.
- Are we willing to sacrifice something costly to serve and honor the Lord?

3 Following Jesus Involves Having an Honest Heart

Luke 23:50–51

- A man named Joseph, who was a member of the council, a good and righteous man. He had not consented to their plan and action.
- It tells us that Joseph was different than almost everybody else on the council.

- He didn't have a heart that was cold and full of pride and was hard and stubborn. Instead, this man had a heart that was honest. It was humble.
- Do we have honest hearts towards Jesus and the evidence that he has provided to be the Son of God?
- Like Joseph as a disciple, is my heart still able to be impacted by the cross?

4 Discipleship Involves Seizing Opportunities to Serve Jesus

- He was presented with an amazing opportunity to honor Jesus in a way that other people could not.
- He owned a tomb that wasn't far from the cross. Not everybody had that.
- Throughout the Bible, we find people like Nehemiah, Esther and Daniel and David and Moses and Joshua and Rahab, who were in these unique positions to do something good in the cause of God, and they seized those moments.
- Will we also seize the moments that God gives us to serve him and to serve his people and to bring him glory?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If there's anyone here who needs to come to Jesus, the risen Savior, come at this time as we stand and we sing together.**

MY NOTES