

Joseph Of Arimathea

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Introduction

1. When studying the scriptures our preconceived notions must be overruled. We must learn to read and study texts as if they have never been read before.
2. Let's get the facts in this study – John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:43-46; Luke 23:50-53...

I. Who Joseph Was

- a. Joseph was a rich man from Arimathea. Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin - honorable, competent in Bible knowledge, a good man, just, and anticipating the coming of the kingdom.
- b. He was a disciple. He went boldly to Pilate asking for the body of Jesus!

II. What Joseph Did

- a. He buried Jesus. All but John and the women abandoned Jesus, so God used Joseph to care for His Son's body.
- b. He rescued Nicodemus. Both were secret disciples and failed to stand up to the enemies of Christ. Both gave to Jesus – influence, wealth, and reputation.
- c. He took a bold, irrevocable stand, at the most difficult of times. He buried a dead savior. Joseph, Nicodemus, and the thief made the same decision at the same time. They signed up when the odds were the worst.

III. Why Joseph Did It

- a. Why would two cowards show up at the lowest ebb? Why didn't they come when they knew Jesus was the Son of God (John 3)? What about when they saw Jesus perform miracles? Why not come when Jesus was teaching?
- b. The answer – The cross (death)! He knew Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 and could not stay neutral any longer (John 12:31-33). Joseph saw Jesus die for him on the cross. He heard the seven statements and believed, committed, and acted! No one can stay neutral at the cross. The cross is God's power to save.