



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark

PART 72 - 15:43 - 47

Stepping Out Of The Shadows

READ: Mark 15:42–43; John 19:38; Matthew 10:32–33

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Joseph of Arimathea was a respected member of the Sanhedrin and a secret disciple of Jesus. What do you think made it so difficult for someone in his position to openly identify with Jesus?
- 2) Joseph finally gathered his courage and approached Pilate when Jesus was already dead. Why do you think Joseph chose this particular moment to publicly identify himself with Jesus, when doing so could cost him so much?
- 3) Pastor G asked, “Will we quietly retreat into the shadows as Joseph did at first? Or, like Joseph, will a day come when we will finally gather up courage, stand up, step forward into the light, and boldly declare, ‘I BELONG TO JESUS!’?” What are some situations today in which Christians might be tempted to hide their faith rather than openly identify with Jesus?
- 4) Jesus promises to acknowledge before His Father those who acknowledge Him before others. Is there an area of your life where fear of rejection, criticism, or personal consequences has kept you from openly living out your faith? What would taking a courageous step forward look like?

Faithful When Everything Seems Lost

READ: Mark 15:44–46; John 19:38–42; Galatians 6:9–10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Joseph and Nicodemus had once been cautious about their association with Jesus. Now, when the crowds had disappeared and the disciples had scattered, these two men stepped forward to care for His body. What does their willingness to serve Jesus at this moment reveal about the depth of their devotion?
- 2) Joseph provided his own tomb, while Nicodemus brought an extraordinary quantity of burial spices. What can their generosity teach us about honoring Jesus with our resources, abilities, and opportunities, even when we receive nothing in return?
- 3) Pastor G said, “Sometimes faithfulness means continuing to love Him, serve Him, and trust Him, staying in the light when absolutely nothing seems to be going the way we hoped!” Why is it sometimes harder to remain faithful to God during disappointment than during times of blessing?
- 4) Galatians encourages believers not to grow weary in doing good. Have you ever continued serving God or helping someone when you felt discouraged, exhausted, or unsure whether your efforts were accomplishing anything? What helped you persevere?

Trusting God When We Cannot See His Plan

READ: Mark 15:46–47; Isaiah 53:9; Proverbs 3:5–6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Joseph was simply trying to give Jesus a dignified burial, yet his actions became part of the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy written centuries earlier. What does this teach us about God’s ability to accomplish His purposes through ordinary acts of faithfulness?
- 2) Joseph and Nicodemus had no idea that their actions were part of something much greater than they could imagine. Can you think of a time when you looked back on a difficult season and recognized that God had been working in ways you couldn’t see at the time? How did that experience change your perspective?
- 3) Pastor G said, “And THAT, my friends, is what faithfulness looks like when you cannot understand what God is doing!” How would you distinguish genuine trust in God from simply hoping that circumstances will eventually turn out the way we want?
- 4) Proverbs 3:5–6 calls us to trust the Lord rather than lean on our own understanding. What is one situation in your life right now where you need to surrender your demand for answers and trust God’s wisdom and timing?

It's Saturday, But Sunday Is Coming!

READ: Mark 15:46–47; Matthew 27:62–66; Mark 10:33–34; Romans 4:20–21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Jesus had repeatedly told His disciples that He would suffer, die, and rise again. Yet after His crucifixion, they seemed unable to imagine His promises coming true. Why do you think even those who had personally witnessed Jesus' miracles struggled to believe what He had told them?
- 2) The religious leaders remembered Jesus' prediction of His resurrection and arranged for the tomb to be sealed and guarded. What is ironic about their actions compared with the response of Jesus' own disciples? What does this contrast teach us about knowing God's promises versus actually trusting them? Pastor G declared, "Just because you can't SEE what God is doing doesn't mean God isn't doing anything! Just because your circumstances SEEM hopeless to you doesn't mean God's promises have failed!" Why is it sometimes easier to believe God's promises intellectually than to trust them when our circumstances seem to contradict them?
- 4) Abraham trusted God's promise even when his circumstances seemed to make its fulfillment impossible. What specific promises of God can we hold on to during our own seasons of waiting, grief, uncertainty, or unanswered prayer? How can we encourage one another to keep trusting Him until Sunday comes?