

OUT OF THE CLOSET
MARK 15:42-47 / 1-24-18 / WED.

- A. Jesus' burial fell on the shoulders of two other men, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.
- B. Only John tells us that Nicodemus was involved—John 19:39-40.
 - 1. He was a Pharisee who came to Jesus at night to ask questions—John 3:1-3.
 - 2. He was a member of the Sanhedrin.
 - 3. Now he joins Joseph of Arimathea in burying Jesus' body.
- C. What do we know about Joseph of Arimathea?

I. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JOSEPH'S LIFE?

- A. First, we know his home town—15:43.
- B. Second, we know he was a member of the Sanhedrin—15:43.
- C. Third, he, like most Jews, was looking for the Kingdom of God—15:43.
- D. Fourth, he was a Christian, but until now a secret one—John 19:38.
- E. Fifth, he was wealthy—Matt. 27:57.
- F. Sixth, he was a “good” man morally—Luke 23:50.
- G. Seventh, he had a good reputation with others—Luke 23:50.
- H. Eighth, he did not vote to crucify Jesus—Luke 23:51.

II. WHAT DID JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA DO?

- A. Although he had been a secret disciple he now publicly identified himself with Jesus by asking to bury him---Mark 15:43.
- B. He took his stand because he wanted to honor Jesus by giving him a fitting burial and also because it fulfilled scripture (Isaiah 53:9).
 - 1. He and Nicodemus together removed Jesus' body from the cross—John 19:40.
 - 2. He bought, and along with Nicodemus, wrapped Jesus' body in fine linen—Mark 15:46.
 - 3. Nicodemus brought spices to anoint Jesus' body with—John 19:39.
 - 4. They placed Jesus in a new tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea and rolled a large stone over the entrance—Matt. 27:60

