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.

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.
      4. They placed Jesus in a new tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea and rolled a large stone over the entrance—Matt. 27:60.