

March 24th, 2024 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 56)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Can you remember a time in your life where you kept something about your life a secret? Maybe it was something significant, maybe it is something not as significant. What were the reasons you didn't want other people to know?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 15:40-47. Specifically in verse 43, we learn that Joseph of Arimathea was a prominent member of the Jewish counsel. This means he was wealthy, educated, and had a good reputation for such a position. **John 19:38** tells us that Joseph was a secret disciple of Jesus because of his fear of the Jews and his reputation. Can you imagine the fear Joseph felt to ask Pilate for Jesus' body? He was now coming forward to proclaim his allegiance to Jesus. Does this remind you of anything or anytime in your life? How are you fearful in acting on Christ's behalf? What has helped you overcome that fear like Joseph?

Question 2: Read Mark 15:43. Joseph approached Pilate to request the body of Jesus. Knowing his background, and what he had to lose in front of his fellow Jewish councilmen, he asked for Christ's body. Scripture says that he "took courage" or "went in boldly." What risk was he taking to give such an incredible gift to Jesus? What risks are you willing to take in your life to follow Jesus? Where do you think Joseph received such boldness and how can we do the same thing in our life?

Read Joshua 1:9, Romans 8:31, Proverbs 28:1,

Question 3: Read Mark 15:40-47. Pastor Jeff ended his message with some application after looking at the life of Joseph of Arimathea. We have talked about how Joseph took a risk and was bold! We also see Joseph do these two things:

- Came out of hiding (**Read Romans 1:16**)
- Took a stand! (**Read Romans 12:1-2**)

How are either of those areas of your life effected? Are there certain people or parts of your life where you keep "being a disciple of Jesus" hidden? How does God's word challenge you to not be ashamed of your faith in Christ? How is Jesus leading you to take a stand for Him? Possibly in your family, at work, in a specific

relationship? Romans 12 says we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. Have you considered your life as a living sacrifice?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?