

## JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA AND NICODEMUS

### John 19:38-42

According to John's Gospel, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus buried Jesus. We know very little of Joseph, but all four Gospels say that he stepped forward with courage to claim the body of Jesus and offer a respectful burial. We know a little bit more about Nicodemus from John's Gospel. He was a Pharisee who approached Jesus at night with questions, and later assured Jesus a fair hearing with the other Pharisees.

#### ☐ **Monday: Read John 3:1-10.**

Nicodemus comes to Jesus seeking truth, even in uncertainty.

What spiritual questions are you holding right now? Are you bringing them to Jesus?

#### ☐ **Tuesday: Read John 3:11-21.**

Jesus invites Nicodemus to step into the light.

Where in your life is God calling you to move from fear or hiding into faithful trust?

#### ☐ **Wednesday: Read John 7:45-52.**

Nicodemus risks his reputation to speak up.

Where do you feel called to speak up for truth and justice in your life today?

#### ☐ **Thursday: Read Mark 15:42-46.**

Joseph stepped forward with courage to ask for the body of Jesus.

What does faithful courage look like in your life?

#### ☐ **Friday: Read Luke 23:50-53.**

Joseph disagreed with the majority and acted with integrity.

How do you live faithfully when your convictions place you in the minority?

#### ☐ **Saturday: Read John 19:38-42.**

Joseph and Nicodemus' burial of Jesus is an act of devotion and a sign of growth.

When have you done something purely out of love for Christ?

Where have you seen growth in your own courage and faith over time?

Both characters fall short of being committed, life-long followers of Jesus, yet both offer models of discipleship. We don't have to have all the answers. We just have to act.

**Following Jesus is bravely asking the tough questions and freely offering acts of sacrificial devotion.**

Prayer: Jesus, your body is prepared for burial. Joseph gave you his own tomb. He laid your body there and rolled a large stone in front of it, then went home. What a sad day it has been for so many people. Help me think of Joseph of Arimathea, who risked his own life as

he accepted Jesus' body for burial. *Lord, help me love enough to make sacrifices for others.*