



# A Disciple's Devotion

Mark 15:42-47

May 15, 2016

## INTRODUCTION:

This week Pastor Mark showed us how Joseph of Arimathea moved from being a disciple-in-hiding to one who courageously took a public stand for his faith in Christ. You can find the sermon notes and summary [here](#),<sup>1</sup> and listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).<sup>2</sup>

## SCRIPTURE:

Turn to Mark 15:42-47<sup>3</sup> in your Bible or [click here](#).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Was there ever a time in your life when you were afraid to live openly for Christ, but found the strength and courage to stand up for your faith in the face of a difficult situation? How did you overcome your fears? How would you counsel someone in the same situation?
2. Joseph feared that publicly following Jesus would harm his reputation,<sup>4</sup> but found the courage to overcome his fear. Is there an area in your life where you feel the time has come to make a stand for your faith, yet are afraid for your reputation? Will you commit to share this with someone and to pray that God will give you the strength to follow him?
3. What does it mean to “*look for the kingdom of God*”? How was this demonstrated in the life of Joseph of Arimathea? Read Matt 6:25–34 and 2 Tim 1:6–8. What changes in mindset or practice would help you to become one who is looking for what God is doing?

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

We should become disciples who **look** for where God is at work; pray for eyes to see what God is doing. We want to live with a sense of expectation, understand God's plan, and join him in his work. We should become disciples who take a courageous **stand** for our faith: Counter the culture, tell people about Jesus, resist temptation. We should become disciples who **demonstrate** our devotion to Jesus: Study the Scriptures, make time to pray, serve, and live obediently.

## AT A GLANCE:

“And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.”

(Mark 15:42–43 ESV)

<sup>1</sup> <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2016/05/15/a-disciples-devotion/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

<sup>3</sup> For the Parallel of Mark 15:42-47, see Matt. 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

<sup>4</sup> See John 19:38