

**Gospel of Matthew “A Risky Burial”**  
**Matthew 27:55-66**  
**August 4, 2024**

**Matthew 27:55-66**

55 There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ 64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” 65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

An “in-between place.”

Joseph and the rich young ruler.

Nicodemus.

The religious leaders are more concerned about a resurrection than Jesus’ followers.

**Matthew 27:64**

64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

Your wealth, reputation and talents are unique and useful.

When you face a “Joseph moment,” go get a Nicodemus.

No one can stay a secret disciple.

**Life Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- The gospels tell us that Joseph struggled to be upfront about following Jesus because he feared the religious establishment. Can you sympathize with Joseph? When can identifying yourself with Jesus be scary?

- Joseph steps forward and asks for the body of Jesus. How might this highlight his unique influence with Pilate? What is he risking?
- Make a list of five things that you feel are abilities, talents, experiences or passions that God has given you to help the kingdom of God advance. Share and discuss your list with your Life Group.
- Do you think our lives are directed and determined by a few critical moments? If you had to pick a moment that significantly influenced you, what would it be?
- The loss and burial of the most important person in your life would feel tragic. How does the obedience and faithfulness of Joseph and the women position them for the most amazing turn of events? How might this inform our own obedience and faithfulness when dreams are shattered?
- Are you in an “in-between place” right now? What has ended? What are you missing and longing for? How can your Life Group support you right now?