

*The Gospel*  
*Luke 23:50-24:12*

By burying Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea became an example for every believer to follow. Have you taken your stand with Jesus at the cross? Are you willing to be identified with the Savior who died for you, no matter what the cost? Do you have the courage of your convictions, or is your Christianity more or less a secret?

It is one thing to praise God in church, but another thing to proclaim him out in the community. Do not be so concerned about your reputation that you fail to tell your friends what you really believe. Do not be so ambitious to advance your career that you compromise your commitment to Christ in your art, your schoolwork, or your business. Do not be so jealous to protect everything you have gained in life that you will not give up what you need to give up for the glory of God. Stop being a secret disciple and stand with Jesus at the cross. Indeed, it is always at the cross where Christians stand with Christ, sharing in the offense of his crucifixion and serving him by proclaiming the message of the cross to a world lost in sin. Ryken

- I. Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple of Jesus who learned to take his stand on the gospel. What Jesus did throughout his ministry, and what he chose to do on the cross, showed Joseph how to overcome his fear of man. The power of cross compelled him to die to self and take his stand for the sake of the gospel.

Luke 23:50-55; Prov. 29:25

**1 Cor. 15:1-4** Now, brothers, I want to remind you of **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received and **on which you have taken your stand**. By this gospel you are saved, if you **hold firmly** to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,...

- II. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James were disciples of Jesus who wrestled with understanding the significance of the death and burial of the one whom they had loved very deeply. It wasn't until the fact of the resurrection was impressed upon their hearts, that they fully realized the power of the cross and what his resurrection means for all believers.

Luke 24:1-12; 1 Peter 1:3

- A. The power of the cross is meant to impress upon our hearts what the sacrifice of Jesus means for sinners in desperate need of forgiveness and reconciliation before God. There is no other way to be saved but through the finished work of Christ on the cross, and there's no other way to stand firmly on the gospel until we totally surrender our hearts to him.

Luke 24:1-5; Rom 12:1; Gal 2:20

- B. The power of the resurrection of the Son of God is meant to impress upon our hearts that he has made us alive in Christ. His victory over death and sin gives us victory over death and sin. "The sting of death is sin ... but thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, **stand firm. Let nothing move you**" (1 Cor. 15:54-58).

Luke 24:6-12; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:4; Phil. 3:10-11

**Romans 1:17** *For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*