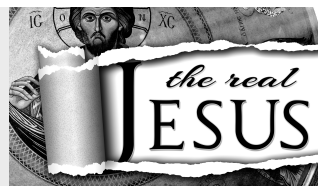


Risk and Reward

The Real Jesus - Part 60 John 19:38-42
Noah Largent 4/3/22



John 19:38-42 Later, Joseph of Arimathea, *a prominent member of the Council* **MK**, *a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action* **LK**, asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, *Joseph's own new tomb* **MT**, in which no one had ever been laid. *He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance* **MT** ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. *The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it* **LK**.

1. Jesus really is dead.

To get the most out of your Bible reading it's crucial to read the story WITHOUT skipping to the end. If you skip to the resurrection *you'll miss crucial details that authors believed were key to knowing and learning from*. The physical toll Jesus suffered led to his physical death. This devastating reality was crushing for his followers! But the authors want you to know that in the midst of this, there are people who demonstrated real courage, that we can all learn from.

2. A Risk Taken, For What Reward?

Joseph and Nicodemus are taking a HUGE risk with this demonstration of allegiance to a dead man. Pilate (the Roman governor) and the Jewish leaders endorsed the killing of someone they believed a real threat, and the honor given to Jesus after his death was a deliberate act of defiance! The consequences could have been serious for them! Considering they do not know that Jesus would rise again, why take such a risk when there seems to be no reward?

3. How About You?

This leads to a good question for you to consider: *do I follow Jesus for the benefits of the relationship or simply because of who he is and the joy of his presence?* Do I primarily love God for what He provides for me (peace, strength, forgiveness, etc.) or because of who He is? *Is a relationship with Him REWARD enough?*

Psalm 84 ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! ² My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord... ⁴ Happy are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. ¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. Of all the benefits that come with your relationship with God, what do you most value? If the benefits were gone, would you still look forward to spending time with him? Are there circumstances when you are most likely to spend time with him, circumstances when are you least likely to?

Notes:
