

Joseph of Arimathea

“Lent, A Monologue”



“And after this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.” John 19:38 KJV

“I am Joseph of Arimathea. Much has been written about me, but I only did what any one in my position, with my beliefs, would have done. Before Christ was crucified, I had become a believer in what He was saying. I did not often openly acknowledge this when I should have because I, like many others, was afraid for my life. But after I saw what they were doing to him and how they treated him, I wanted to help in some way. But at that time, the only way I could help was to offer a new tomb that had been hewn out of the rock for me.

“I knew Pilate, and I was a member of the Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin. We were a group of Jewish religious leaders who had actually called for the death of Jesus. I opposed the decision because I secretly believed Jesus was the Messiah who had come to save our people, but I was afraid to go in public with it because it would place my life in danger. But I was beginning to realize that I had to admit my love for this man if I wanted to spend the rest of my life with Him.

“I was fairly well off, and I was not afraid to go to Pilate. I felt that he had the same sympathy that I did for this wonderful man, Jesus. I petitioned Pilate to let me take the body and bury it in my own grave. Pilate questioned on how he could have died so soon, but after he received verification that what I said was true, he gave his permission.

“Knowing I was old and did not have much longer to live, I had also purchased a linen robe in which to be buried. Nicodemus, another man who believed Jesus was the Christ, came with a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare the body for burial. We wrapped the body of Jesus in the spices and the linen cloth and took it to my own tomb. Several of the women who also loved Jesus, including Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, watched as we sealed the tomb with a large rock that had been cut from the side of the hill. I knew that they had been followers of Christ. I did not feel they were intruding. They, like Nicodemus and myself, mourned His death. That was all that I did. I saw my Lord being mistreated, and was not able to help in any other way.

At the end of the day, the only questions I will ask myself are...

Did I love enough?

Did I laugh enough?

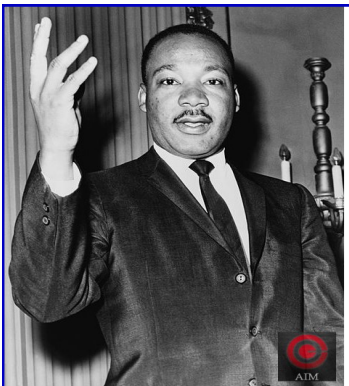
Did I make a difference?

— KATRINA MAYER

“Much has been written about me. Some say I was a member of the Sanhedrin and had voted for the death of Christ. I had no monetary gain from doing this. In fact, I would have to go buy another tomb and robe for my burial, but I knew that I had to stand up for what I believed was right. I had been a part of the group that was doing wrong and they were afraid of this Jesus. I had learned that He was indeed the real Messiah our people had waited for so many years. I had to stand up for what I thought was right. My reward was greater than anything on earth.

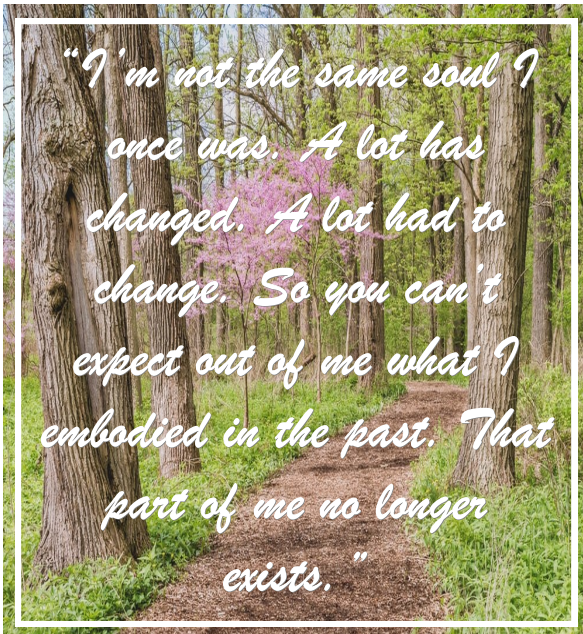
“All that I know for sure is that I have been blessed more than I could have ever imagined. All the money I had could not buy what I now possess. Don't wait. There is a beautiful life for you today and forever if you accept this wonderful man as your personal Savior. I had been “somebody” in society, and then this stranger began to preach to the people. What a stranger!!! I pray He is not a stranger to you.”

"As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away." Matthew 27:57-60



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter"

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



"The Stranger of Galilee" by Morris may well have been the thoughts of Joseph as he saw his Christ being crucified.

*"In fancy I stood by the shore, one day,
Of the beautiful murm'ring sea;
I saw the great crowds as they thronged
the way of the Stranger of Galilee. And I
felt I could love Him forever, so gracious
and tender was He! I claimed Him that
day as my Savior, This Stranger of Galilee.*

*"His look of compassion, His words of
love, They shall never forgotten be;
When sin-sick and helpless He saw
me there, This Stranger of Galilee.*

*"He showed me His hand and His riven
side, And He whispered, 'It was for
thee!' My burden fell off at the
pierced feet Of the Stranger from Galilee.*

*"I heard Him speak peace to the angry
waves, Of that turbulent, raging
sea; And lo! at His word are the waters
stilled, This Stranger of Galilee.*

*"A peaceful, a quiet, and holy calm,
Now and ever abides with me;
He holdeth my life in His mighty
hands, This Stranger of Galilee.*

*"Come, ye who are driven and
tempest-tossed, And His gracious
salvation see; He'll quiet life's storms
with His 'Peace, be still!' This
Stranger of Galilee;*

*He bids me to go and the story tell—
What He ever to you will be, If only
you let Him with you abide, This
Stranger of Galilee.*

*"Oh, my friend, won't you love Him
forever? So gracious and tender is
He! Accept Him today as your Savior,
This Stranger of Galilee."*

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Thank You for dying on the cross and giving Your life for us. Help us to realize that only because of Your love for us did You come and suffer and die. Help us to tell others about Your love for all of us, and reach out and touch someone who doesn't know You and Your love. Amen

1. As Joseph had been a secret admirer, do we also sometimes prefer to believe in secret?
2. Should we use our influence to spread the Gospel of Christ?
3. How can we help after the death of Christ to let others know that His love is as real today as it was then?
4. Do you feel free to go to Him and ask Him to quiet the storms in your life?

Joseph of Arimathea: References to Joseph are found in all four Gospels Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:43-46; Luke 23:50-53; and John 19:38-42.

©rgscripts.com
info@rgscripts.com

