

SERMON OUTLINE John 19:38-42

The Faith of Joseph and Nicodemus

GETTING "INTO THE SKIN" OF JOSEPH AND NICODEMUS

Joseph of Arimathea

Nicodemus

THE FAITH OF JOSEPH AND NICODEMUS

They Were Bold Before Pilate

They Were Bold Before the Jews

SIMPLE DEVOTION FLOWING FROM REGULAR PRACTICE OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

1. *Bible reading and study*
2. *Private and public prayer*
3. *Public and private worship*
4. *Fellowship*
5. *Evangelism/ministry*
6. *Fasting*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that faithfulness to Jesus in times of suffering and mystery is often a matter of simple devotion. And the main takeaway is to consistently make use of the ordinary means of grace so that when times of suffering and mystery come, simple devotion flows freely out of us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Do you ever struggle with reading the Bible through a kind of detached, hypothetical lens?
3. Have you ever felt like you were really able to put yourself in the place of those in the biblical stories? What was it like?
4. How often do you find yourself in a place where you don't know what you should do to honor God? What do you do?
5. What do you think you would have done if you were in the place of Joseph and Nicodemus?
6. Are you usually more of a storm the castle, yell of the hypocrisy and tyranny afoot, wait and pray, or sing and worship kind of person when suffering and mystery come? Why do you think that's your tendency?
7. What does boldness in faith look like for you in real life? How often does your faith require courage?
8. Do you tend to judge others by your own convictions or conscience? Did this passage/sermon help you to reconsider that?
9. What has been your experience with the means of grace? Which one has God used most consistently to strengthen you?
10. Have you practiced the spiritual disciplines enough to notice simple devotion coming out of you when you're shaken?
11. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Read the rest of John, chapters 19-21 and ask the Spirit to help you consider what it says and means with greater care.
13. Pick a passage in John to read this week. Do your best to put yourself into the passage. Write down anything you notice.
14. Read [Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life](#) and pick one of the spiritual disciplines to practice in a new or fuller way.
15. Find people at Grace who are more of a storm the castle, yell of the hypocrisy and tyranny afoot, wait and pray, or sing and worship kind of person. Encourage them. Learn from them. Pray for them. Thank God for them.
16. Find one specific way to be bold in your faith this week.
17. Write down what you do each time you are shaken this week. What comes out?
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG one thing they got from this sermon and how you can pray for them in light of it.
19. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon and for someone to help.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God for being life and truth and goodness and beauty. Praise God for being King of kings. Praise God for being eternal and omnipotent. Praise God for being sovereign over all.
21. Confess. Confess any ways you've failed to act in boldness or simple devotion when shaken recently. Confess your failure to practice the spiritual disciplines. Confess any times you've judged someone else by your convictions/conscience. Confess any times you've been a secret disciple of Jesus for fear of _____.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for raising Jesus from the dead. Thank Him for this simple example of devotion from Joseph and Nicodemus. Thank God for the people in your life that encourage you in your faith. Thank God for His Spirit in you.
23. Supplication. Ask God to guide us to the end of the search process for a Pastor of Discipleship. Ask God to make Grace a place of contentment in the ordinary means of grace, even as we long for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.