

Joseph of Arimathea

A Story of Honor

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What does it mean to live a life of honor? Joseph of Arimathea provides a powerful example of courage, integrity, and devotion. While many remained silent, Joseph boldly stepped forward to honor Jesus at a critical moment. His story challenges us to live with integrity, serve boldly, and give generously.

What Others Say About Honor

- *“The greatest way to live with honor in this world is to be what we pretend to be.” – Socrates*
- *“There are three classes of men: Lovers of wisdom, lovers of honor, and lovers of gain.” – Plato*
- *“The most tragic thing in the world is a man of genius who is not a man of honor.” – George Bernard Shaw*
- *“Nobody can acquire honor by doing what is wrong.” – Thomas Jefferson*

Key Passage: Mark 15:43–46 (KJV)

Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counselor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus...

Joseph took a bold stand when others hesitated. He used his position and resources to ensure Jesus received a proper burial, an act of great courage and devotion.

Want to Go Higher? Follow Joseph’s Example

1. Purpose to Live a Life of Honor

“Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counselor ...” (Mark 15:43a)

Honor is not just about reputation—it’s about integrity in our beliefs and actions.

Quote for Reflection:

- “The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

2. Focus on the Kingdom of God

“...which also waited for the kingdom of God ...” (Mark 15:43b)

Joseph wasn't just concerned with his earthly status—his focus was on God's kingdom.

10 Spiritual Laws of God's Kingdom:

1. **Law of Mutual Forgiveness** – God forgives those who forgive (Matthew 18:23-25)
2. **Law of Greatness** – True greatness comes through serving (Mark 10:43-44)
3. **Law of Faith** – We receive what we declare in faith (2 Corinthians 4:13)
4. **Law of Preservation** – What we surrender to God, we gain (Matthew 16:25)
5. **Law of Giving** – We reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8)
6. **Law of Promotion** – God elevates those who are faithful (Luke 16:10)

7. **Law of Strength Through Weakness** – God's power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9)
8. **Law of God-Centered Focus** – Seek first God's kingdom, and He will provide (Matthew 6:33)
9. **Law of Judgment** – We will be judged as we judge others (Matthew 7:2)
10. **Law of Humility** – God exalts the humble (1 Peter 5:6)

3. Be Bold

“...went in boldly unto Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.” (Mark 15:43c)

Joseph risked his status to honor Jesus. Boldness in faith means standing firm even when it's uncomfortable.

Quotes to Inspire Boldness:

- “Be original; don't be scared of being bold!” – Ed Sheeran
- “Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold.” – Helen Keller

4. Humbly Do What Others Won't Do

“... he gave the body to Joseph.” (Mark 15:45b)

Honor often means stepping up when no one else will. Joseph didn't seek recognition—he simply did what was right.

Motivational Quotes:

- “Today I will do what others won't, so tomorrow I can do what others can't.” – Jerry Rice
- “To be successful, you must be willing to do the things today others won't do in order to have the things tomorrow others won't have.” – Les Brown

5. Give Generously

“...he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock...” (Mark 15:46)

Joseph gave his resources to honor Jesus, showing that honor often requires generosity.

Reflection on Giving:

- “No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” – Calvin Coolidge

Final Thoughts

Joseph of Arimathea's story is one of honor, boldness, humility, and generosity. His example calls us to rise higher in faith and live in a way that brings honor to God and His kingdom.

How will you choose to live with honor today?