



Joseph of Arimathaea

“Lenten Series of Monologues”

“And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, 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 Arimathaea. 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. By 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. I was fairly well off, and I was not afraid to go to him. 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 Joses, watched as I 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. Much has been written about me.

“Some say I was a member of the Sanhedrin and had voted for the death of Christ. Some say I had been imprisoned on Friday because of my beliefs in Christ and then miraculously escaped from prison to ask for the body of Christ. Some authorities believe that I took the Holy Grail, the cup which Christ used at the last supper he had with his disciples. Some say I took it to England and started the church there. Whatever, they say; I know that for too long I was silent. I realized that this man was truly Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord.”

The following song may well have been the words of Joseph as he saw his Christ being crucified.

The Stranger of Galilee

by Leila N. Morris,

“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;
I saw how the man who was blind from birth, In a moment was made to see;
The lame was made whole by the matchless skill 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 for us. Amen

1. As Joseph had been a secret admirer, do we sometimes believe in secret? Why are we afraid to let others know of our love for Christ?
2. Should we use our influence to spread the Gospel of Christ?
3. Does it have to be a rich person that comes to Christ's aid?
4. How can we help after his death to let others know of his love?

Joseph of Arimathaea: 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.

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