

Mrk62 – **Courageous Followers – Mark 15:40-47**

In our last 2 msg's in Mark

First we asked – **Does The Cross MOVE You?**

Are you MOVED by the **King of Heaven**

being **SUBJECTED** to **EVERY TYPE** of **CRUELTY**

that our **Sin Nature** could **Muster**

& then – Being **Brutally Nailed** to the **Cross** - & **left to DIE**

THEN we asked – **Does the Cross DRAW you?**

The **agony** of **every sin** of the **World**

falling on **Jesus all** at **once**

& the **Horror** of **God in the flesh** **PAYING** the **Full Penalty**

for **every one** of **YOUR** Sins - & **MINE**

Darkness engulfing **Calvary** - & **Jesus crying** out

“My God, My God WHY have you forsaken me?”

& In His AGONY – We asked

Does the Cross DRAW you TO Jesus?

Today we are **faced** with the **question**

TO WHAT EXTENT – **have** you been **MOVED BY** - & **DRAWN TO** –
The **Savior of the World** **dying** in your **place** on the **cross**

& **IN RESPONSE** – to **WHO** Jesus **IS**
& **WHAT** Jesus has **DONE** for you . . .

What would you be **Willing to RISK** in this World
To **Stand** - **WITH Jesus** - & **Take** a **Stand** - **FOR Him?**

Let's Pray

We **left** our **last msg** - with the **staggering statement** of **faith**
by the **Roman Centurion** - in **charge** of the **crucifixion**

In Mark 15:39 (NLT)

39 When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, “This man truly was the Son of God!”

Doesn't it strike you as ODD

after **ALL** that **Jesus** had **DONE** for his Disciples
after **ALL** the **PROOF**
after **ALL** the **PROPHECY**

That the **LAST statement** made at the **cross**
About the **PROVEN DEITY** of **Jesus**

Was **made** by the **Roman Centurion** in **charge** of **killing** him?

Where were the Disciples?

WHERE were those who promised to follow him - even to death?

We KNOW why Judas Iscariot wasn't there.

**We KNOW Peter was being Crushed under a Mountain of Guilt
after DENYING that he even knew Jesus - THREE TIMES**

**& We KNOW that ONLY
the Disciple whom Jesus loved (John) was there**

**So – that Makes 1 out of 11 - who had the COURAGE
to STAND for Jesus - on Calvary that day**

But – there were others at the cross

Others more Courageous than 10 of the remaining disciples

Others MORE WILLING than TEN of the Disciples

to be SEEN with Jesus

to be NAMED with Jesus

to STAND UP for Jesus

**MORE WILLING to LOSE – More Willing to SACRIFICE their lives
than TEN of the Original Disciples**

**& initially – Besides the Apostle John -
THEY WERE ALL WOMEN**

Mark 15:40 (NLT)

40 Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome.

1st was Mary Magdalene – from whom Jesus cast out 7 Demons

& who became a key PART - of the Ministry of Jesus

In **LUKE 7** – An **immoral woman** **knelt** at the **feet** of Jesus –
& her **tears fell** on his **feet**

& **she wiped** his **feet** with her **hair** –
& **poured perfume** on his **feet**

& **when Simon** the **Pharisee**
condemned Jesus for **allowing** this to **happen**

Jesus said to him - in Luke 7:47 (NLT)

47 “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”

This **MAY well have been Mary Magdalene** - **Who** is **now** -
driven by **her Love** for **Jesus**

Risking everything to **be standing**
at **the cross** with him

When - 10 of his disciples were **too scared** to **Stand w/ Him**

& then – there is Mary - the mother of James the younger (Less)

This is awesome

Because James the Younger IS an APOSTLE –
he WAS one of the Original 12

BUT – what James the Younger – is known for
is his SERVICE in OBSCURITY

He is Just as much an Apostle
as Peter, James, & John

But he is only mentioned
like FOUR TIMES in the Bible

James the Younger Served the Lord in Obscurity

And – Mary - the mother of James the younger –
we also know – almost NOTHING ABOUT

But here – She Is DRIVEN By her Love for Jesus

to Risk everything
to Stand up for Jesus at the Cross

& her son, James the Less, ultimately does the same

Giving his life for Jesus
without EVER even hardly a MENTION - Anywhere

& **Finally**, we **have Salome** –
the **Mother** of the **Sons of Thunder** - **James** & **John**

AND Probably – the **SISTER** of **Mary** the **Mother** of **Jesus** –
& so, **She** is **Jesus' AUNT**

Which may **help explain** why **she** came to **Jesus** in **MAT 20**

& **asked** if her “**Special Boys**” (James & John)
could sit on **Jesus' right** & **left** in his **Kingdom**

BUT – **She is HERE** – **At** the **Cross**

& **it** is her **DEEP LOVE** - for **both Jesus** & Her **sister Mary**
(mother of Jesus) **that** has **driven** her **here**

& **Mary** – the **Mother of Jesus** is **here** –
experiencing the **agony** only **a mother** can **experience**

& Mark 15:41 says (NLT)

41 They (these 3 named women) ***had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there.***

People debate - **WHY** it was **almost all WOMEN**
who **were** at the **Cross** for **Jesus**

& **some point** to **Culture Differences** – that **they say**
might've **made it safer** for **them** to be **there** than for the **men**

BUT I DON'T THINK SO

**I think the Deep & Sacrificial LOVE that these women had
for Jesus AND for one another**

**DROVE them to STAND at the foot of the cross –
when ALL But ONE of the Disciples were IN HIDING**

But – it's **NOT just the Women and the Apostle John
Willing to Risk it all to be Standing For Jesus – At the Cross**

There were TWO MEN – who were definitely Risking IT ALL

to **STAND UP for Jesus
& TO COME TO Jesus – At the Cross**

Even if it meant losing EVERYTHING to do it

Mark 15:42-43 (NLT)

***42 This all happened on Friday, the day of preparation, the day
before the Sabbath. As evening approached,***

***43 Joseph of Arimathea took a risk and went to Pilate and asked
for Jesus' body. (Joseph was an honored member of the high
council, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come.)***

**By going to PILATE to ask for Jesus' Body
to prepare it and place it in HIS OWN TOMB**

**Joseph of Arimathea was RISKING the LOSS
of every single thing - important to him in this life**

**Joseph of Arimathea was an Honored member of the Sanhedrin –
the Same Group that had just KILLED Jesus**

in V.43 - the NLT says – Joseph *Took A Risk*
The ESV says – He *Took Courage*
The NET says – he *Went Boldly* to Pilate

It took everything he had in him

Because he was Signing his own *Death Sentence* –
as far as being a member of the Sanhedrin goes

He was a Wealthy, Prominent, Honored “*Leader of Jewish Society*”
Right up - until THIS Moment

Because THIS DECISION – Cost him *ALL of THAT*

What little we know from *legend & story* – is that

Joseph of Arimathea was jailed by the Sanhedrin –
& Lost everything that went with his honored *Sanhedrin life*

& he became, (in essence), a Missionary
spreading the Good News – of Jesus Christ

After *LOSING EVERYTHING* – For Jesus

& Our point today is – *He was WILLING*

He was WILLING to *Lose it ALL*
& he Probably DID - *Lose it ALL*

Because of his *LOVE FOR Jesus*
& his *FAITH IN Jesus*

ALL that he **had Gained** in this **World**

He **COUNTED** as **LOSS** – And he **DID LOSE**

In order to **put** on **PUBLIC DISPLAY**

His Faith & **Love** for **His SAVIOR**

Including placing Jesus in his own

Costly - Never Used, TOMB

And – **Joseph** of **Arimathea** wasn't **ALONE**

He **had** another **Courageous Follower** with **him**

Who also was **willing** to **RISK Everything**

To **Take a Stand** for **Jesus** – at **the cross**

So - **v.43** says **Joseph** of **Arimathea** **COURAGEOUSLY**

went to **Pilate** to **ask** for **Jesus' body**

& then we read in **Mark 15:44–45 (NLT)**

44 Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if he had died yet.

45 The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body.

Now – **this word** - is **going** to **Spread FAST**

That a **member** of the **Sanhedrin** is **caring** for the **body of Jesus** –
who the **Sanhedrin** just **had MURDERED**

That's not gonna go well for Joseph of Arimathea

Life as he knew it – WAS OVER at this minute

BUT – he had a **COURAGEOUS Co-Follower**

Who was also ready - to lose everything for Jesus

(over in) **John 19:38–39 (NLT)** – (*I Love This*)

38 *Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who HAD BEEN a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders)*

(He HAD BEEN a secret Disciple – but NO MORE – he is now laying it all on the line - AND losing it all, for Jesus) ,

(Joseph) *asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away.*

39 *With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night.*

(Nicodemus is no longer “Nic at Night”) (Ol’ Nic is out in the open now, & he will also, most likely, lose everything for it)

He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes.

(meaning Nicodemus was ALSO wealthy **AND** a **Newly Courageous Follower**)

These are **Two HIGH-POWERED, Well Positioned** people

Who are **BOTH** putting it all on the line – **FOR JESUS**

They are right now – telling their World – in a **VERY LOUD Way**
That they are **Followers of Jesus Christ**

Like Joseph of Arimathea

Nicodemus was ALSO on the Sanhedrin

He ALSO was living – the honorable HIGH-LIFE

But - in this moment

they are both willing to Lose Everything

in order to show their Love & Commitment to Jesus

& so, we finish in Mark 15:46–47 (NLT)

46 Joseph bought a long sheet of linen cloth. Then he (with Nicodemus) took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in the cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance.

47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus' body was laid.

So . . . ALL the Shock & Pain

& Horror of the Crucifixion was OVER

The currently lifeless body of Jesus

was left hanging on the cross

Maybe Mary Magdalene & Mary the mother of Joseph

were the only two followers left

because they were frozen, in shock

still there only because they couldn't move

BUT - Where are the Disciples?

Do we give them a PASS here?

Do we say, well they were AFRAID, so we understand?

What about the Wealthy Sadducee & Wealthy Pharisee?

**Both members of the Jewish High Council &
Both at the Pinnacle of Jewish Society**

Didn't THEY have something to be afraid of?

They actually had a TON MORE to Lose than the disciples did

But **THERE THEY ARE – Racing to have Jesus
in Joseph's own tomb before sunset
(*& the beginning of the High Holy Sabbath*)**

They both would be DEFILED by touching a dead body

They both would be BARRED from family & friends on that Sabbath

& if the early church writings are true

They both GAVE UP EVERYTHING they had in this world

In order to STAND UP for Jesus

When even his own disciples - WOULD NOT

The women at the cross that day
& these Two Jewish Sanhedrin Members

THEY were the COURAGEOUS FOLLOWERS that day

Because they were the only ones who had THE COURAGE

- to Stand WITH Jesus
- to Stand FOR Jesus
- AND to Suffer The Loss of everything they had in this world
- In order to show their Devotion - TO Jesus

What about US?

Where are we in this picture?

ARE WE huddled in the upper room –
Whispering so no one will hear us?

HAVE WE gone back to the Garden of Gethsemane –
Hoping that no one will find us?

ARE WE following Peter's Lead –
& Denying that we even KNOW that man hanging on the cross?

ARE WE afraid of losing something in this Life
By Taking A Stand for Jesus?

ARE WE worried that we'll lose our reputation
That we'll lose our friends – or even our family

By SHOWING our Love & Devotion for Jesus?

**How could the Disciples be afraid
they were going to lose ANYTHING?**

**What - in this World,
could be WORTH Abandoning Jesus for?**

The **Apostle Paul** is **talking about**
all the things of this world - when he says in

Philippians 3:7–9 (NLT)

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.

8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him . . .

**The ONLY Reason – We have to FEAR
Being an OUT-SPOKEN Christ-Follower**

Is **because** we **think** there is **SOMETHING** in **This Life**
that has **MORE WORTH** – than **knowing Jesus**

**BUT – When we understand – that everything else is worthless
when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus**

THEN we Will Become – COURAGEOUS FOLLOWERS

Let's Pray