

Welcome to the Extraordinaire

[John 10:28-30 NASB](#) Today I want to speak on faith in the Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ based on the story of Joseph from Arimathea.

Matthew 27:57-66 New International Version (NIV)

⁵⁷ As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ 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. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. ⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

On Friday, we remember Jesus died to save us from our sins. He died our death, in our place, taking full brunt the wrath of God. The Father was satisfied. Justice was served on our behalf. So Jesus died. That's where we pick up the story today.

Millions around the world today celebrate with this greeting "Jesus is risen!" and millions would reply "He is risen indeed!"

Welcome to the extraordinaire! There is something amazing about serving the resurrected Lord. Knowing he is no longer in the grave, but that he is alive and seated at the right hand of the Father. The resurrection of Jesus is an amazing, extraordinary happening that brings us into a new life, and eternal life. It gives us hope, His resurrection gives us eternal life.

Did we not just read that... Romans 6:8-11

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

That is the extraordinaire!

I have a question for you. How is your faith? Perhaps your faith is motionless, stationary, stagnant? Is it growing and then stalling, needing a pick me up or is it soaring to new heights? How would you rate your faith today on a scale of 1 to 10? I trust your faith would be strengthened today and if your faith is nonexistent then you will begin to experience faith in the resurrection story of Jesus. It is that story that you have life...

Does our faith waiver? Maybe your faith is low on the meter board. According to situations in life, on a scale of 1-10 my faith can be a 10, and sometimes I have to put my faith on life-support because situations in life feed doubt into my heart. The disciples of Jesus had a strong faith declaring they would always stand by Jesus. In Matthew 26:35...

Matthew 26:35 ³⁵ Peter *said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

They also needed to put their faith on life support. When Jesus was walking beside them, when they were witnessing the miracles, when they were walking, talking, and fellowshiping with Jesus their faith was strong. Look at Peter's faith. In Mark 27

Who do people say I am?" **28**They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."... **28** They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."**29** "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Jesus said that faith would be the faith in which he would build his church. Peter's faith was from 0-10. Peter walked on water, that is a strong faith a **TEN** on the faith meter, he took his eyes off Jesus and his faith bottomed out to below **ZERO** I have been there, so have you...The Garden scene when the soldiers were to arrest Jesus, Peter cuts the ear of the soldier off and Jesus heals the man. Peter has a strong faith, ready to die for his faith, **TEN** because he is walking and talking with the Lord. Peter can see Jesus. But let the trial begin and let the vision of Jesus be gone from Peter's sight and his faith begins to waiver **FIVE**. Let someone question him in a negative way **ZERO** Peter gives his faith up all together.

I don't want to give Peter a bad reputation though, he did come around. As soon as the rooster crowed 3 times Peter realized his weakened faith and he put it on life support. He fell to his knees and he prayed seeking forgiveness...

I am not sure where the other nine disciples were, we know about Judas, he let his faith die. I don't want to be like Judas, selling my faith out to the temptation of this world, or to my lack of understanding who Jesus truly is. Judas sold out to religion and let go of his relationship with Jesus. Maybe he never really had a relationship. There are a lot of speculations out there on why Judas betrayed Jesus. Some say it was to force Jesus' hand into setting up his kingdom on earth. Maybe it was a money thing, Judas was the money keeper in the group. He often had his hands in the money box. He never fully trusted Jesus to care for him. Judas never nurtured the relationship he had with Jesus. He never grew his faith or knowledge of God. We do know that because Judas never called Jesus Lord...Do you want a strong faith, call Jesus Lord, let Jesus be

Lord of your life? The saddest part of Judas' life is that any faith died he might have had died, and Judas died alone...taking his own life

I love the faith of John...in what had to be the greatest trial of mankind, the greatest trial John ever faced, his Lord being crucified, John remained at the foot of the cross, clinging to what was precious to the Lord. John was clinging to Mary, holding her and supporting her.

*²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.*

Do you want to grow your faith? Start at the foot of the cross, receive your direction from Jesus, and then move forward in the work He assigns you. You don't know what your job is? Simple, take care of the one beside you, take them in to your spiritual home, pray for them, support them, love them, feed them, clothe them in the word of the Lord. In growing their faith, your faith will increase...

I like the faith of Joseph...I want to step up to the plate...

⁵⁷ As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.

His story stood out. Instead of running away, he stayed with Jesus. He was concerned enough to care for Jesus' body as evening approached. When everyone else ran and hid, he stepped up to the plate. He was not even one of the Twelve but he became a follower. I am not one of the original 12, but I recognize the extraordinaire, and I am a follower...

Joseph "a prominent member of the Council" A religious guy who chose a relationship with the Lord over his religious council. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, Jesus faced the Sanhedrin after his capture (Mk.15:43). Being a leader among the Jews, rich, respected, an upright man,

and a man of faith, he was a somebody (Lk.23:50,51). But he found Jesus attractive and was convinced He was Messiah and became a secret disciple but “he feared the Jews”

(Jn.19:39) ³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.^[b]

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. We have a Sanhedrin and a Pharisee caring for the body of Jesus. I like their faith, their religion did not stand in the way of their relationship with God...Don’t let yours...It is ok to be silent sometimes, but there are times when you have to step up to the plate, when you have to make a stand for the Lord. Be strong and stand strong...

Jesus is not on the cross, the relationship these two men had with Jesus brought Jesus from the cross. We kneel at the cross to be strengthened in our faith, we gain our task and we move on to what God has assigns us to. Just like John moved on with Mary, just like Joseph and Nicodemus did with the body of our Lord. There had to be a cross, there had to be a tomb, so we could have a resurrection morning...

I want a resurrection morning faith. I want to see the extraordinaire.

Luke 24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

Mary Magdalene was at the cross as well. I love her spirit. She watched her Lord crucified. The Lord who had delivered her from the spirits of the evil one, died before her very eyes. She did not understand the story of the resurrection, but she believed Jesus, and Jesus was her Lord. Nothing stopped her from serving him. Think of the two Mary's going to the tomb. In their hands spices to anoint the Body of the Lord. They knew the stone was there. And they kept walking. They did not hesitate, because of the obstacle, they just kept on walking.

I don't want to hesitate serving my Lord. Because their faith kept moving them forward they were the first to carry the resurrection story to others. They were the first to witness the extraordinaire. They were the first to feel the presence of eternal life. Where is your faith? Do you know the hope of eternity? Has Jesus come down from the cross? Has the stone been rolled away? Is his life present in you... If so, welcome to the most extraordinaire, to the greatest life if you could ever have, if not the altar is always opened, let us pray together...

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