**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. June 23, 2024**

**An Unlikely Disciple**

Matthew 27:57-66

**Key Truth:** God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that all people come to faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, God uses many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to draw us faithfully to Himself.

**Following Jesus In The Dark**:

1. Joseph was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disciple. Matthew 27:57, Matthew 19:23-24

2. Joseph held a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ place on the religious council.

 Mark 15:42-47

3. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what he might \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if his faith was

 revealed. John 19:38-42

4. Joseph didn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the decision of the group to

 condemn Jesus to death. Luke 23:50-56

5. Joseph eventually came out of the shadows to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 proclaim his faith and to fulfill his God ordained \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Isaiah 53:9

**What We Learn:**

1. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ start doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a happy ending.

 A. Judas looked like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disciple and Joseph looked

 like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disciple.

2. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ start is better than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ start.

3. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ anyone aside from the grace and mercy of Jesus.

 Acts 9:26-31

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray that you will walk in fearless faith that is not ashamed to let everyone know that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with someone this week.

**Food For Thought For the Week of June 16th:**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Read Matthew 27:57-61: What do we know about Joseph of Arimathea?

What led Joseph to step forward and ask Pilate for permission to bury Jesus’ body?

What thoughts might have run through your mind if you had sat alongside Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, watching Joseph’s actions?

What to you is most significant about the fact that Jesus, God’s Son, truly died on the cross?

Read Matthew 27:62-64: In what ways were Jesus’ opponents trying to “control the narrative” about Jesus, His death, and its aftermath? Why do you think the leaders were so concerned about what Jesus’ followers might do or say?

How have you seen opponents of Christ try to discredit and demean the gospel message?

What can Christians today do to show others that the gospel message—that Christ died for our sins and was resurrected to give us eternal life—is truth, not “fake news”?