

# The CROSS



1/19/2025 | Ryan Robinson

**WARM UP QUESTION:** Do you have any hobbies or passions that are tough to share with others?

**READ:** Mark 15:42-46

**FOCUS:** The cross motivates us from apathy to action.

**OBSERVE:**

- Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin or “Council” which held great influence over the religious and political matters of Jewish society in the Roman Empire. As a rich and prominent member, revealing himself either as a follower or being sympathetic to Jesus’ teachings would have put him at odds with his fellow rulers.
- After Jesus’ death on the cross, Joseph is finally emboldened to reveal his belief by demanding a proper burial from Pilate. This act fulfilled a prophecy found in Isaiah:

“He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.”

Isaiah 53:9

**DISCUSS:**

1. What stood out to you, or what did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention?
2. Who have you upset in the process of taking your faith more seriously? What keeps you from following Jesus more openly?
3. When has the Holy Spirit guided you to take mission-driven, faith-filled risks?

**TAKE ACTION:**

- If you have not yet done so, consider putting your faith in Jesus. Please reach out to anyone on the ministry staff, your Life Group leader or a fellow church member if you have questions about this.
- Many aspects of faith are best practiced in community. Acts 2:42 describes the early church devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. If you haven’t yet, join a Life Group and begin the Discipleship Path where you’ll experience this alongside others.

**PRAY:** *Dear Lord, we thank You for sending Your Son who lived and died publicly for us. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit on how to live our lives publicly and victoriously for You, in light of the resurrection. Please increase our faith, hope and love as we walk in Your footsteps in service to others. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*