

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 4th April 2021

SBC Easter Services

Good Friday on line service

6.30am Easter Sunday Sunrise Zoom service

Easter Sunday's online service "Be reconciled to God"

Pat is leading and Ron is preaching from 2 Cor 5:20b-6:2

You can follow the service on the SBC website from Sunday morning, go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured right.



Link for the other Easter Services are on page 2.

Ron's Reads

Mt 27:46, 1Jn 1:9, Mt 11:28 Mt 23:37

For Your Prayers

Please pray that SBC can reach out to the community over Easter with the online services and more and more people will come to know Jesus.

Pray for those who over Easter will be relying on the Foodbank to provide food for their family and their selves.

Also pray for those persecuted Christians around the world that will have to celebrate the Jesus's Resurrection in the shadows of secrecy.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Steve, Susie, Jo and Amy English.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Monday 29th Jerry posted a message from Maureen "Thank you all for your prayers for Abbie. Tomorrow Abbie has an appointment at Addenbrookes, where she will be fitted with a monitor to register the activity in her brain, both while awake and asleep. Thank you so much love Maureen xx"

On the same day Fran posted "Will pray for Abbie. Thankyou for your prayers for me. Test results were good."

On Tuesday Doreen Hollebon said "Request for prayer from Joyce Dolin-Ryan. She is feeling unwell. She is waiting to be seen for a hip replacement but her appointment for tomorrow had just been cancelled."

The same day Jane posted "Barbara Gale asked could we pray for David and all in end of life care."

To join the ever-growing WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room and Devotion WhatsApp site text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone.

Easter Hope in Troubled Times

These times are frightening, Lord. Headlines daily deliver troubling news. If we dwell there, Father, we will lose all hope. Thank You for Your protection and the promises we have in Your word. Nothing can separate us from Your love and the victory achieved by Christ at the cross. He is our hope and ever present help in trouble. Thank You, Father. We have no need to fear. You will never leave nor forsake Your own! - Judy Fussell

Matthew 28 Easter Prayer

"Do not be afraid," - God, I hand over to You those things that make me so afraid. Resurrect the parts of my faith squelched by fear.

"I know that you are looking for Jesus," - God, when my soul is searching, help me know the answer to every longing can be found in You.

"He has risen," - God, the fact that Jesus is risen should lift my head, my heart and my attitude. Help me to live today as if I really believe this with every part of my life.

"Just as he said," - Jesus, You keep Your promises. Help me live as though I believe that with every part of me. Help me trust You more, obey You more and resemble You more.

"Come and see," - Jesus, You had the angels invite the women in to see for themselves that You had risen. You invite me into these personal revelations every day. Forgive me for sometimes rushing about and forgetting to come and see for myself ... You, Your Word, Your insights.

"Then go quickly and tell his disciples," - Jesus, I don't want to be a secret keeper with my faith. I want to be a bold and gracious truth proclaimer. For You. With You. Because of You. Me, the unwanted girl whom You loved, redeemed and wanted.

In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Lysa TerKeurst for more prayers click [Crosswalk](#)



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

If you are reading this news-letter as a PDF you can click on the red highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.

Don't forget you can also follow what's happening at SBC on twitter <https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch> and on Facebook www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist

Food Bank & Personal Prayer

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and personal prayer. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met.

The [Food Bank](#) is open on Fridays in the Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm. If you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Citizens Advice Service 0344 411 1444, the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at miniister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

For your Diary

Mon April 5th 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wed April 7th 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

"Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tip-toe if you must, but take a step."
Naem Callaway

Jesus this way

Easter Services

Watch our Good Friday service as well as our Easter Day celebration at www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ The Good Friday service will be available from 3.00pm and the Sunday service from 1.00am.

To take part in the Zoom Sunrise service at 6.30am on Easter Sunday use the following information.

Join the Zoom Meeting On

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5185800970>

Meeting ID: 518 580 0970

Join by mobile

01314601196,,5185800970# 02030512874,,5185800970#

Join by landline by dialling

0131 460 1196 Or 0203 051 2874 Or 0203 481 5237.

Meeting ID: 518 580 0970

For more information contact Jerry on **07733837687**

Reflections for AGM 18th April

The deacons feel it appropriate to ask if anyone has any particular reflections on this past year they would like to share or thoughts on going forward as church. If so please send them either to Diana or Jerry. It is hoped this may form part of the AGM discussions on the 18th April.

As we do go forward may we be a church that is praying for boldness and wisdom.

Donations

If you would like to donate to SBC you can go on line at <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/donate.php> where you will find details of how to pay by BAC's, SMS or debit or credit card. You can also put cash or cheques through Henry Nicholson's door at Three Windows Brumstead Road.

Testimony Tuesday

On Easter Sunday 2016 David Child was baptised at SBC. To see his baptism and testimony click [here](#)

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at John 19. How would you have dealt with Jesus's torturous death as an onlooker, as a disciple, in the chanting crowd calling for the crucifixion, maybe one of the Chief priests or Pilate?

If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Missionary Update

To read an update from Paul and Sarah Brown working in Thailand click [here](#).

Daffodils Still Blooming A Big Thankyou

We are still harvesting daffodils to raise money for SBC. Bunches of the spring flowers are available outside Edna's house in St Johns Road and also outside SBC 10 to 12 midday on weekdays.

As of Monday March 29th £663 has been raised.

A big thank you to all involved.

EBA Prayer Focus 4th April 2021 Cranham Baptist Church

Cranham is a largely residential area on the London/Essex border, just a stone's throw from the M25. Cranham Baptist Church is ideally placed within a large housing estate and next to a primary school and is led by its Minister, Revd Claire Blatchford. Since 'Lockdown 1' in March last year, the church's focus has been not only reaching and supporting the existing congregation, but also 'being church in the community'. This has involved inventive ways of continuing the Girls' and Boys' Brigade Groups via Zoom, with children tasked with creating craft items and engaging in lively games from their homes.

The well-established disability-friendly group, Oasis, has only been able to meet a few times. Oasis meetings are informal, interactive with eager participation in singing, instruments and dancing - all the things you can't do in church at present. However, during the first lockdown, some of the Oasis leaders learnt Makaton, which everyone at Oasis has enjoyed, allowing expression and giving a greater depth to our worship.

There is a great sense of thankfulness to God for the skill and hard work of many people that enable services to continue via Zoom. Members not on the internet have been provided with CDs and materials which has proved an invaluable way to remain in fellowship with one another.

For Advent, all church members were given an Advent Box filled with items to use each day to help prepare for and celebrate the coming of Jesus to earth. It was encouraging to know that all the church family were united in this activity. An online Christingle was well attended, but it is notable how difficult it can be for children and young people to feel engaged during the Sunday Zoom meetings, which is an ongoing cause of concern for their parents, and something for which the church would value prayer.

Please pray:

- That during this storm, we will remain rooted and strengthened in the faith.
- For guidance how to keep all our members feeling part of the church family, especially our children and young people.
- As restrictions are eased, wisdom to know how to balance online with in-person meetings. Also, discernment of God's plan for our part in establishing His Kingdom.
- For God's wisdom to faithfully manage our finances as we have experienced a considerable loss of income.

Quotes of the Week

"Consider, finally, what it meant to Him to do this for us. "I go," He says. Where is He going? He is going to the Garden of Gethsemane to sweat drops of blood. Where is He going? He is going to be arrested, to be tried in court, to be mocked and jeered and laughed at. He is going to be spat upon, to have His holy body scourged. He is going to have a crown of thorns placed upon His head. They will take Him and drive cruel nails into His blessed hands and feet. He is going to be nailed to a tree. Can you picture it happening to you, with nails being hammered in through hands and feet? That is what He is going to. And, too, He is going to endure the mockery and the spitting and the jeering of the cruel mob; they did not know who He was or what He was doing. He is going to die and to be laid in a grave, He who is the eternal Son of God through whom the world was made and by whom all things exist. He is going deliberately to all that because that is the only way whereby the door and the gate of heaven can be opened for us. "I go to prepare a place in heaven with God, a mansion for you."

Beloved friend, have you realised that the Lord Jesus Christ has done all that for you? If you see it, if you believe it, you will agree with Paul when he says that you are not your own, you "are bought with a price," therefore you must give yourself and your life to Him (1 Cor. 6:20). If you believe Him, you can know for certain that He has prepared a place for you and will come again and receive you unto Himself so that where He is, you shall be also."

— **D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**, [The Quiet Heart](#)

"The real truth is that while He came to preach the Gospel, His chief object in coming was that there might be a Gospel to preach."

— **Robert William Dale**, [The Atonement; The Congregational Union Lectures for 1875](#)

Missed Opportunities

*“After he had said this, he went back outside”,
John 18:38*

Written by **Nabil Abou-Rahme**

Click [here](#) for audio edition

We come to another iconic moment in the events leading up to the crucifixion. Step inside with me to the palace of the Roman Governor of Jerusalem, Pontius Pilate.

Outside, a noisy crowd, worked up by agitators, part of a conspiracy to get Jesus killed. The leaders had been plotting this for months, ever since Jesus showed he was in a different league by raising Lazarus from the dead. Everything was going to plan but they still needed the governor’s signature on the death warrant. Normally they feared Pilate, but they knew he was losing political capital in Rome, so if there was ever a time to press their demand, it was now.

Inside, a few moments of private conversation. We get a glimpse of this conversation in the synoptic gospels, but John gives us more detail. This is where I want to focus today, a tragic moment where Pilate comes so close to receiving the truth and making his life count for eternity, but then missing the point and being distracted by his own self-interest.

Pilate had an unwelcome problem on his hands. To go along with this plot, knowing he was being manipulated, and potentially kill an innocent man, leaving open the possibility of retribution? Or to go with his conscience, take a stand, and do the right thing, knowing that others would bait him to use violence in squashing the inevitable riots that followed. “What shall I do then with Jesus who is called the Christ?” A pivotal question for Pilate but equally poignant for each one of us today. It’s a harder question than you think. What will *you* do with Jesus?

The conversation in the palace revolved around a central question. Was Jesus claiming to be a king? If so, then there might be some basis for Pilate to act, although excessive force against someone who didn’t really pose a threat was more a sign of insecurity than strength. The person standing bound before him didn’t look like much of a threat, indeed the whole sorry band of disciples could have been seen off by just one Praetorian Guard.

Pilate asks the questions directly, but the answer isn’t what he expected. The synoptic gospels record the short version, “it is as you say”. But John gives us more detail on this exchange. Was this a genuine question? Did Pilate understand anything about the subject he raised? “My kingdom is from another place” said Jesus. Did Pilate know that Jesus belonged at the right hand of the Majesty in the Heavens? “I came into this world to bear witness to the truth and everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” said Jesus. He was asserting the claims of heaven on earth. So, you’re partly right Pilate, but do you want to go deeper?

Pilate seems to engage with the last statement and asks a deep question, “what is truth” – was he ready to unlock the secrets of life, to inquire of the Son of

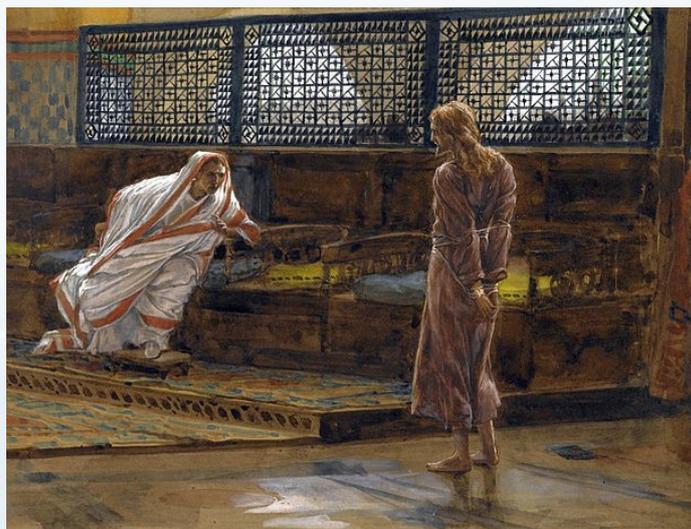
God, as so many had done before him in the last three years? Would he find the humility to do so, to stay long enough and hear the answer? No! The second the words were out of his mouth, he walked back outside to the noisy crowd, his moment of opportunity lost forever!

If he wasn’t going to listen to Jesus, then what else could he do? Pilate doubles down on getting rid of this problem, it’s a battle of wits with his cunning adversaries. First move, a distraction.

What if he puts up Barabbas, already convicted of sedition, as the other candidate in this strange custom called ‘free the prisoner’? Surely, they wouldn’t want to throw away the effort already invested in getting Barabbas convicted. After all, this anti-establishment figure was more of the threat to the Jewish leaders than he was to Rome, and he’d already proved it with murder. It was a brilliant move and Pilate seemed to enjoy making it. But the mob sensed weakness, they smelled blood, they preferred to have this criminal back on the streets to kill again than miss the chance to silence Jesus.

Next move, mockery. If they wanted blood, then he’d flog Jesus and show off the results. Add a crown of thorns and a lush purple robe to the ropes tying his hands and the spectacle was complete. That’s what Romans did wasn’t it? Bread and circuses? Pilate even gave Herod a good laugh at Jesus’ expense, surely Caiaphas would also see the funny side? Pilate brings Jesus out to the balcony, “behold the Man”. That should get a laugh, make them see how ridiculous their demands were. But no, the ‘question of Jesus’ was persistent. Mockery wouldn’t deflect it.

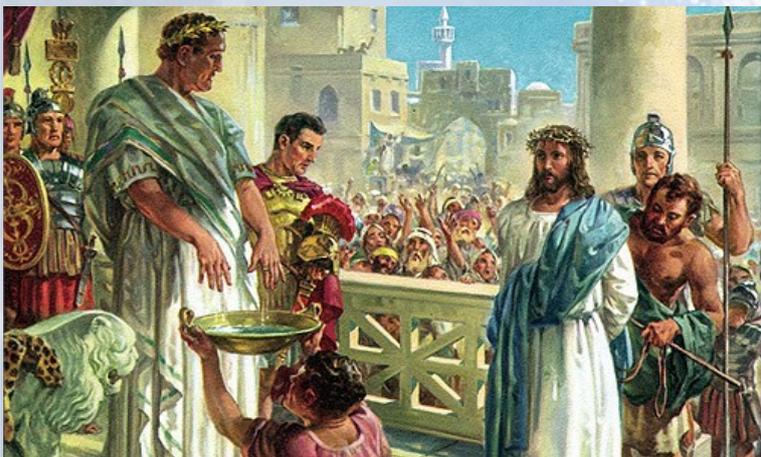
So far, Jesus didn’t react to the general accusations levelled against him. Pilate was amazed that a man didn’t jump quickly to defend himself, to protest his



“Quid Est Veritas?”
(Jesus Before Pilate, James Tissot, 1836-1902)

innocence, to argue his case or otherwise back down and beg for mercy. The silence frustrated him and maybe unnerved him too. He starts to flex his own credentials. "Don't you realise I have the power to free you or crucify you?" Was Pilate reassuring himself in that moment or did he still believe his own rhetoric? Even with the baying mob outside and power brokers scrutinising his every move for signs of further weakness? Jesus exposes this pretence, "you would have no power over me except what is given to you from above". It isn't the emperor you have to worry about Pilate! All authority derives from God. Even the mighty Roman Empire existed relative to the Kingdom of God. The stone uncut by hands was striking the heart of world empire in an unexpected way, here in Jerusalem not in Rome. Do you have any idea what is happening around you?

Pilate isn't used to being thwarted. He's not getting anywhere, the crafty conspirators keep name-dropping to intimidate him, "you're siding with someone who opposes *Caesar*". Pilate was already on a yellow card with Rome. This had gone far enough. Matthew tells us that, with some ceremony, Pilate took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, placing responsibility on their heads for the imminent death of an innocent man. The gesture was immediately understood by the crowd, as it was an extract from a longer Jewish ritual that sought to absolve the nation from accountability for an unsolved murder. Pilate was saying there will be a murder here, and the real murders are still at large, but there was no blood on his hands for not being able to solve it. Had the crowd stopped to think about what they were accepting they might have evaded or answered differently, but passions were running high, a riot was breaking out, and getting what they wanted from this representative of the empire made them all feel powerful.



Pilate Washes His Hands. (Public Domain)

Pilate's window of grace had closed. A few moments of quiet in the Palace with the Son of God who was gracious enough to speak to him about the Kingdom of Heaven, about the Sovereignty of God, and about His mission in coming into the world to testify about the truth. Had he listened further he may have discovered that Jesus Himself is the Way, the Truth

and the Life, and that Pilate could have come into the Father's Kingdom by faith in the Son. But Pilate focused on self-interest and chose favour with Caesar over favour with God. He ended the day no nearer salvation than when he started. As he handed Jesus over to be crucified, the two men parted ways forever. Another three years of turmoil, and Pilate would fall out of favour with the new Caesar, ending this life in shame and entering the next life without an advocate to plead on his behalf at heaven's throne. Christ was led way to be crucified, the blood shed would be sufficient for Caiaphas, for Herod, for Pilate, for all in the hostile crowd as well as all who sympathised, for the soldiers who beat him, flogged him, and nailed him to the cross. Sufficient if they had repented and believed in the one whom God put forward as their substitute, instead of hardening their hearts and turning away. Sufficient for them and still sufficient for you – if you will hear his voice and obey.

Perhaps this has been your quiet moment in the palace with Jesus. You didn't think he was much to look at, but there's a nagging question inside, "what shall I do with Jesus"? Will you mock the claims of the Son of God, and use this light-heartedness to dismiss the question altogether, sharing the joke with others to validate how you feel? Perhaps a little humble-brag about your self-sufficiency or how you are good enough for God as you are, without the need to talk about sin or a Saviour? Maybe you are finding useful distractions in the challenges of life or deeper questions, after all, how can a good God allow suffering in the world? Or are you blaming others for your rejection of the gospel, "all those hypocrites in the church", how could you possibly lower yourself to follow Jesus?

Or maybe you will do better than Pilate, be more like Nicodemus, who asked how he could be born again and then stopped to hear the answer? Or like Peter, who followed long enough to understand that Jesus alone had the words of eternal life, then confessing he was both Christ and the Son of God! Or the man crucified next to Jesus who grasped that tiny window of opportunity before dying, to ask 'Lord remember me when you come into you Kingdom'? Or like Thomas who knelt before the risen Jesus, saying in awe and reverence 'my Lord and my God'.

These people understood the truth and knew what to do with Jesus. How about you?

If you would like to listen or read more of Nabil's articles to be found on his website "Stories of Mercy" click [here](#)

Nabil and his lovely family visited SBC while holidaying in Norfolk in 2019 joining in with the summer activities.

We missed seeing them last year due to Covid but are hoping we can meet up again in 2021.

The one Easter Character we never think about

Why the actions of Joseph of Arimathea pose questions for us all. By Chris Goswami taken from Baptist Times

Dig beneath the surface of the Easter story and you will find one or two intriguing but little-known characters. They are not given much space in our Bible, even less in our Easter sermons and studies. Truth be told, we can easily get by without thinking about them. But if you do that, you miss a great story. So let's stop and consider them briefly now.

The Outer Circle of Jesus' Followers

In this outer orbit of followers we see women including Mary of Magdala, one of Jesus' followers and a witness to his crucifixion. We see Simon of Cyrene, the barely mentioned character who gets pulled out of the crowd and made to carry the cross. We see Nicodemus the secret disciple. And then we have the intriguing Joseph of Arimathea. He gets only a few lines of text but features in all four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. All these "minor characters" kept their distance from Jesus (and in the case of the women, would only ever receive brief mentions).

This outer circle of characters is fascinating not least because that's where you and I might place ourselves had we been present in Jesus' day. We may not be bold enough to have been actual disciples, to give up everything and just follow Jesus (I'm not), but perhaps we would have felt compelled to shadow this Jesus of Nazareth from a distance. Joseph is an excellent example of a distant yet fascinated follower.

The hymn "Jerusalem" – what Joseph did not do

Joseph is one of those characters about whom there are stories and legends. The most eye-popping one comes from medieval England. The story goes that the wealthy Joseph visited and toured England with his nephew, the young teenage Jesus. Furthermore, after Jesus' death, Joseph retrieved the Holy Grail – the cup Jesus drank from at the Last Supper – and brought it back to England. In fact, the famous hymn "Jerusalem" from the poem by William Blake, was inspired by this story of a teenage Jesus walking in England:

*And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?*

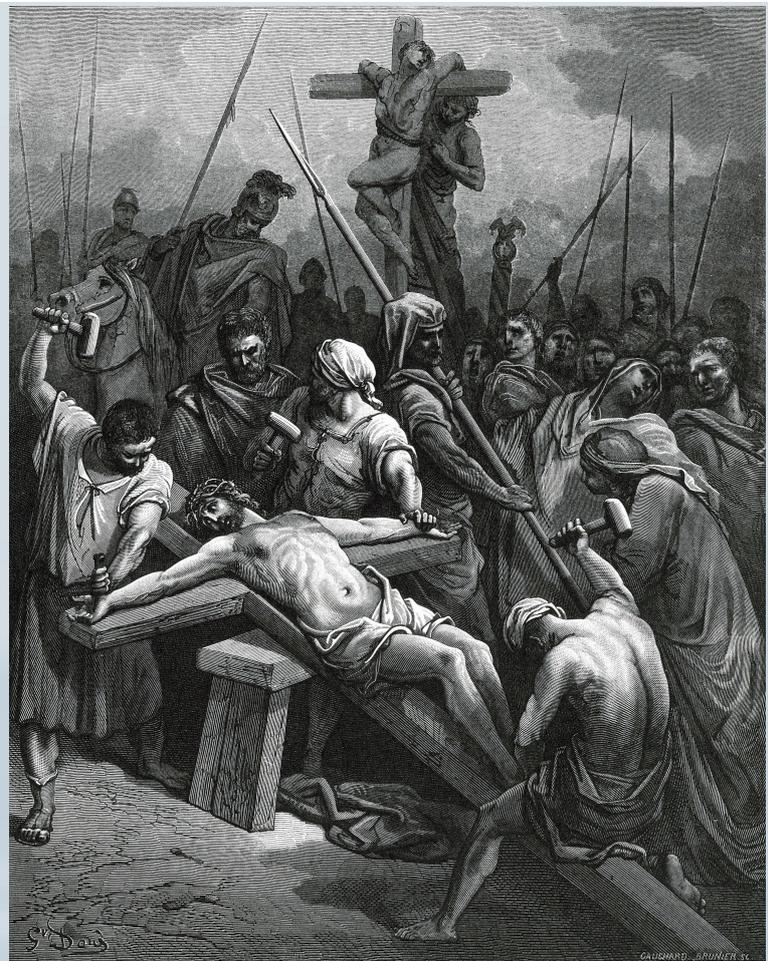
Mercifully, William Blake includes a question mark at the end of each line. This is fortunate because the answer in every case is "No" Or at least there is zero evidence that the events in the hymn Jerusalem took place in the UK (or anywhere else for that matter).

But it's a great story — I love it!

The Gospel Accounts – what Joseph did do

Here is Luke's account — just a few verses at the end of Chapter 23:

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took



it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

The other three gospels provide further details. John emphasises that Joseph had been a secret disciple "out of fear of the Jews", and that he did not work alone, but with Nicodemus, Jesus second secret disciple, who only dared visit Jesus by night. Interestingly, Nicodemus was also a member of the ruling Council.

"Affluence and Influence" – what Joseph teaches us

In his recent book *Joseph of Arimathea: The Extraordinary Calling of Ordinary People*, Kevin Costa draws insights from this man's life.

Joseph, this secret disciple, "outs himself", comes clean as a disciple, and argues against the ruling Council's decision to condemn Jesus. He breaks rank with peers and friends, takes courage and speaks in defence of Jesus and against the charges of blasphemy. Of course the Council overrule him, but he then teams up with his colleague Nicodemus to do the one last thing they can do: ensure a fitting burial for Christ. And they arrange this in Joseph's own tomb in fact (Joseph was a wealthy man).

Asks Costa: "Was this a partnership of disappointed disciples? Perhaps the shame they both carried from their lack of open witness to Jesus?". We don't know, but what we see is that an emboldened Joseph openly approaches Pilate without regard to his standing or reputation and requests the body. Costa again: "How extraordinary that (Joseph) would do this publicly after Jesus was dead. He had nothing to gain and so much to lose". That's true, the dead Jesus, as far as they knew, could no longer recognise or thank them, but their colleagues might certainly ridicule them. They did it because it was the right thing to do. Was this a partnership of disappointed disciples? Perhaps the shame they both carried from their lack of open

witness to Jesus?

Isn't it interesting that the disciples have all fled at this point, but the **secret** disciples, this outer circle were just emerging, This was their hour!

Costa draws our attention to how, in life, we too must learn to steward both our affluence and our influence. It is clear what good stewardship of our affluence, our wealth, looks like with generosity in giving, or tithing.

But good stewardship of our *influence*, our reputation among colleagues and friends is much harder. Perhaps it is this willingness to risk our reputation, our status, that differentiates a *follower* of Jesus from a mere *admirer* of Jesus? Joseph may have been late to show it, but he took a huge risk with his reputation, his standing.

Descent from the Cross, by Rembrandt van Rijn, 1633 with Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea standing on the ladders

What do we learn from Joseph of Arimathea?

This laying aside of our reputation, risking ridicule and separation from work colleagues, friends or family is a tough call. For many of us it is far more challenging than giving money away.

If you are a leader in a secular organisation

Why has God placed you in such a prominent position? Are you willing to use your influence for good? What does that mean?

If you work in any secular role

Would you break rank with your colleagues and "speak truth to power" at the risk of damaging your reputation?

Doing so may release others who feel the same as you but are also afraid to speak out. Note that this needs sensitivity and intelligence, and we need the right topics or we will be viewed as "the religious nutter". It might be as simple, as just being completely honest in claiming expenses, not bending the rules when you easily could. Honesty can bring the right kind of attention. Or, more substantially, you might speak up on an issue of justice –whatever that means in your work environment. Justice is a recurring theme in scripture and also a topic non-believers readily relate to.

If your work is at home

This is the most challenging place of all. Speaking the uncomfortable truth, in love to a family member, yet continuing to show love through our actions even when they don't listen, is tough.

This Easter, as you proceed through the drama of the scripture readings, look out for the minor characters, the footnoted people, the people of the small-print – and see what you can glean!

Chris Goswami is Director of Communications at Openwave Mobility and Associate Minister at Lymm Baptist Church. He is the author of www.7minutes.net, where this reflection first appeared. It is republished with permission.

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Prayers for Persecuted Believers

Prayers for persecuted believers Imagine a place.

Imagine a place where you could come close to all your brothers and sisters in the Lord.



Imagine a time when you could express your hope that they could be made strong.

Imagine a way to ask for their protection, for wrongs to be righted, for the world to be redeemed... That place is here. The time is now. The way is prayer.

The Lord's prayer, Korean-style Imagine waking up in your cold North Korean home, praying: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.'

Imagine working in a labour camp, praying: 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

Imagine searching the mountains for something to eat, praying: 'Give us this day our daily bread.'

Imagine being forced to take part in a self-criticism session, praying: 'Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors.'

Imagine seeing the wealthy leaders on television, leading a rich life, and praying: 'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

Imagine kneeling on your sleep mat each night, praying: 'Amen.'

Lord, help us to pray Holy Spirit, we barely know how to pray for the pain in our world. Help us, in our weakness, to feel the sighs and groans you utter and to pray for the glory of God to be revealed.

Lord Jesus, protect all who follow you – and fill them with joy. Make them more than conquerors through your mighty strength; give them your resurrection power.

Creator God, bring all your children to complete unity so that the world will believe in Jesus and your Love. Amen.

Prayers taken from Opendoors for more information go to

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

