

# Matthew 27:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the even was come, there came a rich man of  
Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus'  
disciple:

## Analysis

---

**When the even was come** (ὥψίας δὲ γενομένης)—the evening before Sabbath began at sundown, creating urgency to complete burial. **A rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph**—fulfilling Isaiah 53:9, 'with the rich in his death.' Joseph was a Sanhedrin member (Luke 23:50-51) who had not consented to Jesus' condemnation, and secretly a **disciple** (μαθητής) of Jesus.

His wealth enabled him to own a tomb; his status as Sanhedrin member gave him access to Pilate. God providentially placed this man to ensure Jesus received honorable burial rather than the criminals' mass grave at Golgotha. Joseph's courage—publicly identifying with a condemned criminal—cost him his Sanhedrin seat and social standing, embodying Jesus' call to 'take up your cross' (Matthew 16:24).

## Historical Context

---

Jewish law required burial before sundown (Deuteronomy 21:23). Crucified criminals normally remained on crosses for days and were buried in common graves. Joseph's intervention was both religiously necessary (to avoid defiling the Sabbath and Passover) and personally costly—he risked ritual defilement, career destruction, and Roman suspicion.

## Related Passages

---

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. What caused Joseph to finally go public with his discipleship after remaining secret for so long?
2. How does Joseph's costly identification with Jesus challenge comfortable, secret Christianity today?

## Interlinear Text

---

Ὅψίας	δὲ	γενομένης	ἦλθεν	ἄνθρωπος	πλούσιος	ἀπὸ
the even	When	was come	there came	man	a rich	of
G3798	G1161	G1096	G2064	G444	G4145	G575
Ἀριμαθαίας,	τοῦνομα	Ἰωσήφ,	ὃς	καὶ	αὐτὸς	ἐμαθήτευσεν
Arimathaea		Joseph	who	also	himself	disciple
G707	G5122	G2501	G3739	G2532	G846	G3100
τῷ	Ἰησοῦ·					
G3588	Jesus					
	G2424					

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)