

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 (ὄψιας 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

Psalm 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

Ὥψιας δὲ γενομένης ἦλθεν ἄνθρωπος πλούσιος ἀπὸ

the even **When** **was come** **there came** **man** **a rich** **of**

G3798

G1161

G1096

G2064

G444

G4145

G575

Ἄριμαθαίας, τοῦνομα Ἰωσήφ, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἐμαθήτευσεν

Arimathaea

G5122

Joseph

G2501

who

G3739

also

G2532

himself

G846

disciple

G3100

τῷ Ἰησοῦ·

G3588

Jesus

G2424

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