



# THE SIGNAL

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS  
OF THE "WHERE GOD IS BLESSING"  
BROADCASTING NETWORK

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VOLUME 11

MARCH 2024

NO. 87

There are many individuals who have a part in the Passion of our Lord. It is easy to overlook some of these key roles in the story of His last days on earth. One of them was Joseph of Arimathea. Interestingly, all four of the gospel records mention him. This is an indication of his importance in the record of our Lord's work at Calvary.

Luke tells us that Arimathea was a city of the Jews, indicating that it was in Judea. That's where Joseph was from originally. He was a member of the supreme court of Israel, the Sanhedrin. By a majority vote, that group decided to hand Jesus over to the Roman governor to be tried. They wanted Him to be put to death. To do so, they must have Rome's approval.

It was nine o'clock in the morning, the time of the morning sacrifice, when they nailed our Lord to the cross. He hung there for three hours, enduring excruciating agony and unspeakable torment at the hands of Roman soldiers. Finally, at the precise moment predetermined by the Godhead in eternity past, Jesus cried, "It is finished!" No one killed Him. He died of His own will.

While Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin, he had not consented to the death of Christ. The reason he did not is that he had become a convinced believer and follower of Jesus Christ. Luke 23:50-52 gives us the record: *"And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: [The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;] he was of Arimathea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus."*

Both Matthew and John describe Joseph as a "disciple of Jesus," a true believer who was expectantly awaiting for the coming of the Messiah. He understood the Old Testament promises of salvation and had come to the settled conviction that the Lord Jesus was the promised Messiah. He gave, no doubt, a dissenting note at the meeting demanding that Christ be put to death. John 19:38 reads, "...Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus." Not for long did Joseph

remain a secret disciple. He makes his profession of faith openly known in a most conspicuous setting, Pilate's hall. [Mark 14:43]

Many professors are fearful to openly avow the Lord before a gathered congregation of fellow believers. Here, Joseph risks reputation and position in his open alignment of himself with Christ. He is not ashamed of his Lord's battered and mutilated corpse.

John Phillips writes in his commentary on Mark that "Years earlier Joseph had bought a piece of ground in Jerusalem suitable for a tomb. Work on it seems to have been still in process at the time of the Crucifixion. The rock-hewn tomb was located in a garden near Golgatha. The tomb was to house the remains of him and members of his family. [Mark, p. 339] Joseph gave Jesus a place in his own family's mausoleum. Jesus would need it for only a few hours, long enough to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy made some seven hundred years before: "He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death..." [Isaiah 53:9]

John Piper notes that "Christianity has always viewed the body as essential to full humanity so that the life to come has primarily been seen as the resurrection of the body in glorious eternal hope. Paul did not consider the intermediate bodiless state, between death and resurrection, as ideal. [2 Corinthians 5:4] The greatest thing that can be said about the human body is that the eternal Son of God was incarnate in a human body and will have one for ever." [From an April 26, 2016 article by John Piper of [desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org), titled "Should Christians Cremate Their Loved Ones?"] This is a major reason why many believers have, down through history, frowned upon the pagan practice of cremation.

Today in heaven, Jesus has the body He had on earth, now glorified. When He comes for His church, He will transform our vile bodies like unto His glorious one. [Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 6:13; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20]

Tradition holds that Joseph of Arimathea was one of the wealthiest men in Jerusalem at the time of Christ. Neither wealth nor status holds any sway before the throne of God. No deed we do can save us. [Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:18-19]

Our Lord warned in Luke 12:8 that “Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.”

I stood alone at the bar of God  
In the hush of the twilight dim,  
And faced the question that pierced my heart:  
“What will you do with Him?  
Crowned or crucified? Which shall it be?”  
No other choice was offered me.  
I knelt in tears at the feet of Christ,

In the hush of the twilight dim,  
And all that I was or hoped or sought,  
I surrendered unto Him.  
Crowned, not crucified! My heart shall know  
No king but Christ, who loves me so.

*Florence E. Johnson*

We praise the Lord for your faithful support and monthly assistance in broadcasting the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

Your servant,  
Chris Lamb

## FROM OUR STATION MANAGER

Share-a-thon 2024 is just over a month away, and we hope you're planning to join us for these two important days on the WGIB calendar. As you know, we rely upon the pledges of our listeners to help us meet our monthly financial obligations for the upcoming twelve months. We are asking the same God who used a few faithful supporters to establish this ministry when WGIB signed on the air for the first time over forty-one years ago, to continue to provide all that is needed to sustain this faith ministry for another year.

Will you take time to pray for us as we prepare for Share-a-thon 2024? We believe that our God is the

Creator and owner of all the wealth of the world, but He has chosen to use what He has given to His people to, in turn, support His church and Christian ministries that faithfully proclaim the timeless message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Will you ask God what He wants you to do this year to support this Christian radio ministry? Also, please let your friends know about this year's Share-a-thon which will be May 2-3.

We always look forward to hearing from our faithful supporters, as well as first-time donors as we watch God use His people to help us broadcast the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ for another year.

Paul Hancock



# WGIB SHARE-A-THON

*Our Annual Radio Ministry Fundraiser*

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
**May 2-3**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**