

## Day 9, The Walk, “Broken and Given” ~ Fear



*Tomb design by Colleen Loser and The Walk Team, 2017*

*Through this prayer space we come to the tomb . . . and we find Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea . . . two very respected and honorable men who held positions on the Jewish Council, better known as The Sanhedrin. This group of men resented and even hated Jesus and just hours before, declared that he should be killed.*

*Nicodemus and Joseph were different from the others in this Jewish religious elite. There was something about Jesus that had gotten to them . . . they wanted to believe but were afraid . . . openly following Him would jeopardize everything they knew.*

*Wanting to know more, Nicodemus came to see Jesus secretly in the dark of night . . . and Jesus, understanding the brokenness of fear, met with him, and shared what the learned man so needed to hear.*



*Jesus shared the greatest truth,*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

*John 3:16*

*And faith was birthed in Nicodemus.*

*Joseph was a wealthy man who although present at the trial had not agreed with the death verdict but now, no longer afraid, his love for Jesus gave him courage and he did what no one else could do.*

*He went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body so that he could give Him an honorable burial. The corpses of crucified criminals were often left unburied or tossed into a mass grave . . . Joseph could not let that happen . . . Jesus was worthy of more, so much more. This bold step would have blackened his reputation with the Jewish leaders but that no longer mattered to him.*



Tomb created by Lana Schafer, 2019, Photography by Rachael Harascak

*Nicodemus also now came forward with an uncommon courage and brought about seventy-five pounds, a very generous amount, of myrrh and aloes. Joseph brought the linen cloth and together they bound the body of Jesus in the cloth with the spices, as was the burial custom of the Jews.*

*These two men broke through their fear and gave an extravagant gift to the one they knew to be their Savior. In knowing who He really was and the love He had for them they were changed . . . they became men of great*

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,  
always being prepared to make a defense for the hope that is in you;  
yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15





## **Prayer Response**

*Joseph and Nicodemus had a fear that is felt by many in our world today.*

*Where and with whom are you afraid of being open about your faith?*

*What might be the consequences for you of following Jesus boldly?*

*How might He be asking you to step out in faith today?*

*Lord, fill me with the courage of Nicodemus and Joseph that I might honor you in all that I do wherever I am. Amen.*



*Please take a moment to listen to "Is He Worthy?" by Andrew Peterson*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olalc83Kvp4>