

We can treat people one of two ways; honor or dishonor.

We've been talking about that these last few weeks in preparation for today, Easter Sunday.

When it comes to Jesus, we find people giving Him both honor and dishonor.

Judas brought Him dishonor.

The mystery woman brought Him honor.

Peter brought Him dishonor.

The Crowd brought Him honor on Palm Sunday but dishonor when they cried out Crucify Him!



We will look at two groups of people who showed Jesus honor.

First, (a one man group) but it is believed that Nicodemus was present also.

As Jesus hung on the cross when He died some strange things happened. **Mt 27**

1. The veil of the Temple was torn
2. Tombs were opened and bodies were raised from the dead and went into the city
3. There was an earthquake
4. The Centurion overseeing everything cried out "Truly this was the Son of God."

And,

As phenomenal as these events were, perhaps this one was even moreso.

**Mt 27:57** *When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.*

Luke called him a member of the Council, a *good and righteous man* Lu 23:50

**v.58** *This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.*

None of Jesus' relatives came for the body because they had no tomb to bury Him.

The disciples had fled.

Only John, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Salome,

But a wealthy member of the Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin, came to take possession of Jesus.

Principle:

Those of wealth can be used greatly in the Kingdom of God.

Now;

John said, Joseph had been a secret disciple until now. Jn 19:30

Mark said "He gathered up courage to go to Pilate to ask for the body or Jesus."

This was a bold move on his part.

The religious leaders and the crowd had accused Jesus of inciting a rebellion against Rome.

For Joseph to claim the body was to identify with this insurrectionist.

But Pilate granted it.

**v.59** *And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,*  
**v.60** *and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.*

Question

Why the change in Joseph?

Why go from being a secret disciple to one who puts his life on the line for Jesus, even a dead Jesus?



I believe because He saw a demonstration of love like he had never seen before.

He understood what John would later write.  
*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, would not perish but have everlasting life."*

Though Joseph had a controlled belief, he now had a courageous belief.

Therefore,

He wanted to honor Jesus the best he could.

But,

It doesn't stop there.

It's now Sunday morning.

Think of it.

Today, only 2,000 years earlier.

**Mk 16:1** *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.*

**v.2** *Very early on the first day of the week, they \*came to the tomb when the sun had risen.*

Here they come again.

The same ladies. Luke adds Joanna.

Last at the cross, first at the grave.

It makes me wonder,

What is wrong with the men when it comes to the things of God?

Men are:

- Bold
- Smart
- Build things
- Invent things
- Risk takers
- Go to the moon
- Go to war

Yet,

When it comes to God;

*Fill in the blank* \_\_\_\_\_

Cowards, lazy, stubborn,

Definitely prideful. \_\_\_\_\_

But the ladies;

Just like Joseph, they come to give honor to Jesus.

And notice.

**v.2** *they came Very early*

John said it was so early, it was still dark!

Early in the morning, men go fishing, they come anointing.

So what we have here today is two examples of honor; honor to Jesus Christ.

And those that honored Him, have all the same motivation – His love for them resulting in their love for Him.

I want you to think about His love for you today.

It knows no bounds

It has no restrictions

It is a love that is unconditional.

There is one condition and that is that

God "is" love.

Therefore,

Love is all He has for you, demonstrated by the sending of His Son to take your guilt away.

When you receive His love that is in Christ, you become a new creation,

Old things are washed away and new things have come.

That better way is there to honor the Lord Jesus that to accept His sacrifice on the cross for your sins and to receive the gift of eternal life that He offers.

And once you experience this love:

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom 8:38-39