

**100X**  
**LEGACY**

**WHAT'S  
BUSINESS GOT  
TO DO WITH  
EASTER?**

# WHAT'S BUSINESS GOT TO DO WITH EASTER?

## THE WORLD IS GOING TO ASK YOU TWO QUESTIONS:

- Who are you?
- What are you doing here?

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The first question talks about identity (**who are you?**); and the second, about purpose (**what are you doing here?**).

Wherever you find yourself, I think we all want the answer to these fundamental questions.

The ancient writings found in Jeremiah provide a foundation from which to find these answers.

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**“BEFORE YOU WERE CONCEIVED, I KNEW YOU, AND BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I CONSECRATED YOU.” JEREMIAH 1:5**

### OBSERVATIONS:

You have a soul.

God knew you before you were conceived, before you became physical.

You have a God given purpose.

The word “consecrated” means “set apart for a higher purpose.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Have you ever considered that God knew you before you became physical?

How does this understanding change how you view your relationship with God your identity?

How would you describe the difference between a life of “Pleasure and gratification” Vs “Meaning and purpose.”

How does this look today and what would you like it to look like in the future?

# JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

## – DUSTAN BELL, SENIOR PASTOR CALVARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Not many people have heard of Joseph of Arimathea.

When we hear the name Joseph, we think of the Joseph who successfully interpreted Pharaoh's dreams about the seven fat cows and the seven skinny cows and eventually became the second most powerful person on the planet.

Or we may think of Joseph, husband of the virgin Mary (of which much has been written).

Joseph of Arimathea is only referred to across 16 verses in the bible.

What is extraordinary is that the actions of Joseph of Arimathea were deemed so important that the account is referenced across all four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

To put this in perspective, here's a sample list of accounts that have not achieved such a status:

- Jesus, turning water into wine.
- Jesus calming the storm and proving his divinity over nature.
- Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

None of these stories were included in all four Gospels. Yet here is the story of Joseph of Arimathea who never preached a sermon, performed a miracle, or prophesied included in all four Gospels.

Sound familiar?

Most businesspeople I know aren't on the stage, or near the lights. They rarely have a microphone, but they do have a heart to use their gifts for a purpose that makes a difference.

I think this is exactly why Joseph of Arimathea can be seen as somewhat of a blueprint in scripture for people who feel called into business.

So, what do we know about Joseph of Arimathea?

We don't know anything about Joseph's early life or upbringing. We know that he was from the small town of Arimathea and where there is little biblical significance. It's not a significant capital city, not a significant urban or business centre. In fact, Arimathea is not even mentioned again in the Scriptures.

We do know that Joseph was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, a select and intimate group of 71 Rabbis appointed to council. Clearly, he was a man of influence and a man of prominence; in modern terms we would describe Joseph as a man of social equity.

It's therefore reasonable to assume that Joseph of Arimathea had business interests and influence (which we will unpack shortly!)

Joseph had a close friend called Nicodemus, who were both secret disciples of Jesus during his life. If you're familiar with the Bible Nicodemus is referred to in John Chapter 3, where Jesus has a conversation with him and shares the now famous words:

**“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**

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus kept their allegiance to Jesus secret as this was not looked upon well with the Jewish Sanhedrin. Jesus would have been seen as a rebel insurrectionist Rabbi who held many controversial views. Let's just say, they would not have put it on their LinkedIn profile!

But what did this guy do that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wanted every follower of Jesus to know about and how does this tie into the story of Christ, his crucifixion, burial and resurrection?

When we read of the account surrounding Jesus death, we know that he was arrested, humiliated, whipped before being nailed to a cross. The Bible says that almost all his 12 disciples scattered and deserted him. This is despite the fact that they had followed him for three years, received all of the benefit in the blessing that came with following Jesus.

At the moment of need, the best of them kept their distance, and the worst denied him completely and ran.

Have you ever wondered about the possible outcomes for Jesus' body after he was crucified? Many people know the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection on Easter Sunday, but what could have happened to his body? Typically, when someone was crucified, there were only a few options for the body. One option was that the body would be left exposed to decay, consumed by animals, or left to decompose in public. Another option was that Roman soldiers would throw the crucified body into a communal burial plot, piled on top of other dead bodies. Alternatively, if the deceased had influential relatives, they might request the body for a dignified burial.

Given Jesus' crucifixion and his family's lack of resources, it was likely that his body would be thrown into a communal burial plot. At this moment, when Jesus' loyal followers had scattered and were nowhere to be found, Joseph of Arimathea stepped forward in Scripture. Joseph held a unique social position that granted him access to the Roman authorities, and he also had wealth and resources. Despite being too scared to associate with Jesus during his life, Joseph courageously honored Jesus upon his death. What made Joseph of Arimathea remarkable was that he recognized that he had both the influence and affluence to care for the body of Christ in a way that few others could. Joseph decided to step forward, but he also knew that he couldn't do it alone. So, he called his friend Nicodemus and partnered with him to embalm and prepare Jesus' body for burial.

The Bible states that Joseph and Nicodemus brought 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes to embalm Jesus' body. To put this into perspective, this was more than what would be used to embalm a king, and the cost of these spices in today's equivalent would be around 100 to 150,000 U.S. dollars. Joseph and Nicodemus were significant individuals who not only had influence but also affluence. Furthermore, Joseph provided his own tomb for Jesus, knowing that he would have to get another one for his own family in the future. He just wanted to honour the body of Christ and see Jesus honoured in a way he couldn't do on his own. Although they were members of the religious council and it was the start of the Passover feast, which was a significant Jewish festival, Joseph and Nicodemus didn't delegate the responsibility. Instead, they took personal responsibility and didn't shy away from the task,

even though it would make them ceremonially unclean during the Passover.

In conclusion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, despite their previous hesitation to associate with Jesus, stepped forward in a moment of need. They used their influence,

affluence, and personal responsibility to honour Jesus' body and ensure that he received a dignified burial, going above and beyond what was typically done for those who were crucified. Their actions demonstrated their deep respect and devotion to Jesus, even in his death.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

### 1. Will I honour Jesus even when my expectations go unrealized?

- When Joseph and Nicodemus were carrying the dead weight of the Messiah of Jesus, it was the dead weight of unrealized expectation they were carrying. They believed that the Messiah would be a military leader who would overthrow the Roman government and make Israel and Jerusalem a place of glory again. It's easy to have a God honouring attitude when things are going well, it's easy to have a heart to honour Jesus when Jesus is doing everything that you think he should be doing. But what do you do when your expectations go unrealized? If you're a person of faith, what do you do when it feels like God let you down, or God hasn't done what you thought?
- Find one area of your life, where things aren't going as you would like, an area where you have unrealised expectation? How do you honour God in this situation?

### 2. Will I partner with others to move God's purposes forward?

- What Nicodemus and Joseph did was too big for them to do on their own so the needed to participate in a joint venture. It was only when they got together in this joint venture and brought their gifts together that they were able to move the purpose of God forward in a way that was greater than they could have ever done on their own.
- Be aware of the potential impacts of prosperity and money. When you don't have a lot of money you have to band together with others to get by. It's the reason why in many developing environments there's a greater sense of community.
- Wealth has the potential to isolate us because we don't need other people. We have our own house, cars, everything is sorted! You can actually live a pretty good life all on your own. What you need to be aware of is when God blesses our lives and we see increase, it can actually lead to isolation and individualism.
- Is your wealth and resources causing isolation?
- How are you using your wealth and your resources to partner with others to make a greater difference?

### **3. Will I take personal responsibility for the body of Christ?**

It would have been far easier for Joseph and Nicodemus to delegate responsibility to others. They didn't. They personally carried the body of Jesus through the town, were deemed ceremoniously unclean as they took on personal responsibility for the body of Christ.

What does it look like for you to take personal responsibility for the body of Christ?

### **4. Am I being a good steward of the influence and the affluence that God has given me?**

- Not everyone could get a meeting with Pilate, but Joseph could; not everyone could afford to give Jesus an honourable burial but Joseph could. Joseph had been given a lot of influence and affluence and when the moment came, he actually managed it well to make a difference.
- Wealth does different things to different people. Think about this: Within the Easter story, you have Joseph of Arimathea and you have Judas Iscariot.
  - Judas Iscariot disowned Jesus for money whereas Joseph of Arimathea took ownership of the body of Christ with his money.
  - Wealth makes some people abandon their loyalty to Christ and wealth makes others express their loyalty to Christ.
  - Wealth makes some people betray the Kingdom whereas wealth helps other people to build the Kingdom.
- Nobody remembers Joseph of Arimathea because he had money (after all, there were many other rich people in Jerusalem). Joseph of Arimathea is remembered because of what he did with his resources.
- Are we guided by money like Judas or are we going to guide our resources like Joseph to make a difference?

### **5. Will I honour Jesus through unseen acts of faithfulness?**

What Joseph did was unseen, it was behind the scenes. He wasn't looking for the limelight, no one was posting it on social media, no one was making a big deal out of it. It was just a small act of faithfulness. Sometimes people are looking for their big moment where they can really express their purpose, but Joseph teaches us that sometimes those big moments come in the small unseen acts of faithfulness.

#### **Further Reading and References:**

"Joseph of Arimathea: The Extraordinary Calling of Ordinary People", Ken Costa, 2020.

"The Billionaire Who Wasn't: How Chuck Feeney Secretly Made and Gave Away a Fortune", Conor O'Clery, 2013.

## 100X STRENGTHS ASSESSMENT

Just like a GPS, you need two points to have a clear path.

1. Where you are going?
2. Where you are at?

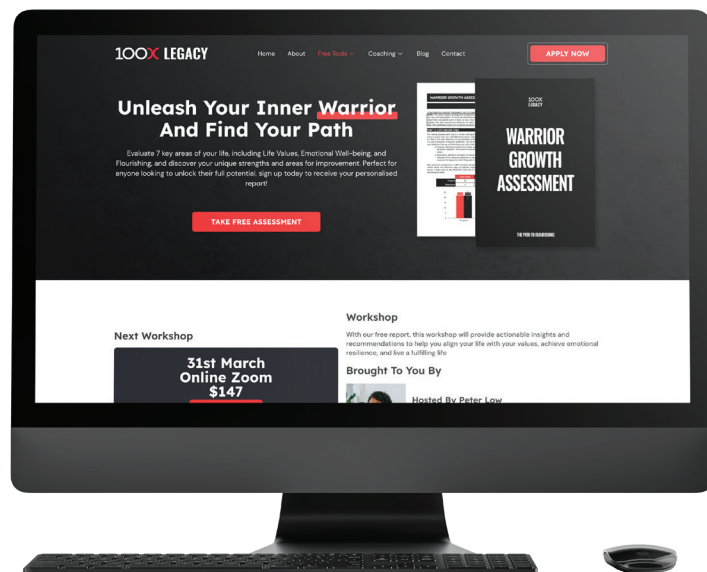
The 100X Warrior Assessment has been designed by Dr Robi for 100X Legacy and based on Clinical Psychology best practice.

Taking this free assessment will give you your personal baseline against seven key areas of your life including Life Values, Emotional Well-being, and Flourishing.

You will see discover your unique strengths and areas for improvement.

Take the free assessment at:

**[www.100x.com.au/warrior](http://www.100x.com.au/warrior)**



### QUESTIONS AND ACTIONS:

As a result of this workshop, share one thing:

1. That has inspired you.
2. That you are going to immediately implement as a result. (Record these as a group so you can reflect at your next gathering). **Here's to the 100X life, a life well lived!**

Please reach out to us at 100X Legacy [www.100x.ly](http://www.100x.ly) if you have any questions, would like to start or join a Business Connect Group or wish to find out more about our coaching services.