

**ARE YOU A SECRET CHRISTIAN?
JOHN 19:38**

INTRODUCTION:

1. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were afraid of the Jews and did not want anyone to know that they were followers of Jesus.
2. Each of the four gospel writers give us a complete picture. (Matt. 27.57-61; Mark 15.42-47; Luke 23.50-56; John 19.38-42)
3. Are you willing to step up and be a disciple even if your discipleship put you in danger?

I. JOSEPH AND NICODEMUS

- A. Joseph and Nicodemus were both wealthy.
 1. Joseph was a “*rich man*” who bought “*fine linen*” to wrap the body of Jesus. (Matt. 27.57; Mark 15.46)
 2. Nicodemus brought “*a hundred pounds*” of “*myrrh and aloes.*” (John 19.39; cf. Mark 14.5)
- B. Joseph and Nicodemus were both very influential.
 1. As a member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph was a “*prominent council member.*”(Mark 15.43)
 2. Nicodemus was a “*ruler of the Jews.*” (John 3.1,10)
- C. Joseph and Nicodemus were both secret disciples.
 1. Joseph was a disciple “*but secretly*” (John 19.38)
 2. Nicodemus “*came to Jesus by night.*” (John 19.39)

II. HOW CAN WE OVERCOME FEAR?

- A. We show fear when we do not take a stand for Jesus because doing so will result in some kind of harm.
- B. **2 TIMOTHY 3.7:** “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*”
 1. God has given us power. (2 Tim. 1.3-6; 2.21)
 2. God has given us love. (2 Tim. 1.8,12)
 3. God has given us a sound mind. (vs. 9-11; Gal. 2.20)

CONCLUSION: If someone threatened to take your life if you admitted you were a Christian, what you would do?

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15*

March 30, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

DO NOT COMPLAIN

It has been said that a perfect meal is one where there is something wrong. Why? It gives us a reason to complain. For some, it seems that they are not truly happy unless they have a reason to complain. Yet, did you know the Bible condemns complaining (Phil. 2.14)?

1 Corinthians 10 is a chapter about the temptations we face every day and how to overcome them (1 Cor. 10.12,13). In this context, we are told that the mistakes of those in Old Testament times were recorded to teach us what not to do (1 Cor. 10.6-11). Of interest, one of the examples of the sin from which we are to learn is the sin of complaining. We are told not to “*complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer*” (1 Cor. 10.10).

If you turn back to the Old Testament, you will find that the children of Israel had a very difficult life. They were slaves in Egypt. They were led to freedom only to wander in the wilderness for forty years. They were hungry, thirsty, and homeless. If anyone had reason to complain, they did. And they complained a lot (Ex. 15.24; 16.2; 17.3). Yet we are told that their complaining was evil (Num. 11.27). Why was their complaining sinful? They did not put their trust in God (Num. 14.22).

When I am tempted to complain, I need to remember the example of Israel and their hardships. They were told not to complain, but to trust in God. I need to do the same (Heb. 13.5,6). CLP

Who is My Brother?

MARK 6:46

INTRODUCTION:

1. As the body of Christ, we are made up of different members, and we have responsibilities toward one another as family.
2. As a family, we are to dwell together in unity. (Ps. 133.1)

I. THREE DIFFERENT FAMILIES

- A. The family of humankind.
 1. This family has the same origin. (Acts 17.26; Eph. 4.6)
 2. This family has the same father. (Heb. 2.11)
 3. This family has the same mother. (Gen. 3.20)
 4. This family has the same birth. (Ps. 139.13; Job 14.1)
 5. This family has the same name. (Gen. 5.2)
- B. The family of Israel.
 1. This family has the same origin. (Deut. 7.6)
 2. This family has the same father. (Gen. 12.2; 17.5)
 3. This family has the same mother. (Gen. 17.15,16)
 4. This family has the same birth. (Est. 2.5)
 5. This family has the same name. (Est. 2.5)
- C. The family of God.
 1. This family has the same origin. (1 Tim. 3.15)
 2. This family has the same father. (John 3.5; 1 Pet. 1.22)
 3. This family has the same mother. (Rom. 6.17)
 4. This family has the same birth. (John 3.6; 2 Cor. 6.17,18)
 5. This family has the same name. (Acts 11.26; 1 Pet. 4.16)

II. AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION

- A. The family of mankind?
 1. Everyone is a part of this family.
 2. We have responsibilities to all. (Rom. 13.8; 1 Tim. 2.1)
- B. The family of Israel?
 1. No one is part of this family.
 2. The family of Israel no longer exists. (cf. Gal. 3.29)
- C. The family of God?
 1. Anyone can be a part of this family.
 2. You must go through the birthing process to become part of the family of God.. (Matt. 28.19; Acts 2.38,41,47)

CONCLUSION: Are you part of the family of God? (1 John 1.3)

BEING IN THE LORD TOGETHER

Perhaps you have heard the expression, “no man is an island.” It originates from John Donne, an English poet and philosopher. He wrote these words in 1624 in a book titled, “Devotions on Emergent Occasions.” In this book he wrote, “No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main.”

In this life, God never intended for us to be alone. Even from the very beginning of time, God said to the first human being that He created, “*it is not good that man should be alone*” (Gen. 2.18). What did God do to solve the problem of loneliness? Verse 18 goes on to say, “*I will make him a helper comparable to him.*” The word “helper” does not suggest someone to help with the chores or someone to serve as an assistant. God created someone who would help him by providing companionship. Husbands and wives work together to help each other, provide support for one another, and ultimately help one another get to heaven (1 Pet. 3.7).

As you move to the New Testament, you will find this concept of people working together to encourage, support, and help each other. Even Jesus did not come to this world to carry out the work of God by Himself. He called twelve men to provide companionship and to help Him preach the gospel (Mark 3.14). And when Jesus sent His disciples out to preach, He did not send them by themselves but “*two by two*” (Mark 6.7).

In the book of Acts, the apostles continued to work together. In the first part of the book, you will read about Peter and John preaching the gospel in Jerusalem and Judea (Acts 4.13). In Acts 11, there is a shift in focus as our attention is set on another pair – Barnabas and Saul (Acts 11.30; 12.25). After a heated dispute between them, they went their separate ways, but not alone. In Acts 15.39,40 we are told that “*Barnabas took Mark*” and “*Paul chose Silas.*”

Are you struggling with life? You don’t have to go through it alone (2 Tim. 1.8). Are you trying to reach the lost? You don’t have to do it alone. Are you trying to understand the Bible? Find a study partner and work on it together. Remember the words of the wise man: “*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up*” (Ecc. 4.9,10).

CLP