

## Gathering Up Courage, Mark 15:42-47

This kind of **courage** comes from two different sources/locations:

1. Internal/Self- *tolmao* is *to bring one's self to boldness*;
2. External/Others- but *internal courage/boldness* can be *inspired by* and *instilled from others*, cf. Phil.1:14,20.

Joseph of Arimathea "*gathered up*" from both of these sources:

1. *Internally* for he knew what needed to be done, realized that he was as good as anyone to do it because of his *position* as "*a prominent member of the Council*, v.43a; Luke 23:50; he had the *means* (cf. Matt.27:60, "*his own new tomb*"); and,
2. *Externally* from Jesus and his own assumed interaction with and belief in Him, v.43; Luke 23:51; as well as additional support from Nicodemus, John 19:38.
3. Often, *internal* mettle is either supplied or bolstered by *external* courage- such is probably the case here with Joseph.

But make no mistake- **it takes courage to:**

- **Be "good and righteous," Luke 23:50**; especially when everyone else around you is *wicked* and *corrupt*, as his fellow council members surely were, cf. Matt.5:14-16; Phil.2:15-16; surely the *crooked perversion* of the world around us makes even small but *courageous* lights seem even brighter. Be courageous and don't be afraid to let you light of *goodness* and *righteousness* shine brightly for all to "see" and glorify God, Gal.6:9-10!
- **Dissent from the dominant view, Luke 23:51**; even before Joseph "outed himself" as a disciple of Jesus, he did what the Twelve couldn't/didn't do: he refused to "go along with the crowd," cp. v.51; Matt.26:31,56. *Gather courage* sufficient for the *narrow gate* and way, Matt.7:13-14!
- **Trust God and wait for the kingdom of God, Luke 23:51b**; "*waiting*" (*prodechomai*) doesn't really mean to sit idly until something happens- it carries the ideas of *expectation* and *anticipation* with a planned *acceptance*, cf. Luke 2:25,38 (Simeon and Anna *looked for* and *anticipated* the *consolation* and *redemption* of *Israel/Jerusalem*). It takes courage to *trust God* and *wait* for His promises to be delivered. We must *gather* such *courage* in "*waiting*" for His deliverance, 2Thess.2:5-12,13-17. Be *courageous* and *trust in* and *wait for* God!
- **Become a believer in and follower/disciple of Jesus Christ, Matt.27:57**; especially when the majority *disbelieve* and *ridicule* and *reject* Him and those who do. Joseph's *initial* courage didn't allow him to be an "open" believer "*for fear of the Jews*," cf. John 19:38. But note carefully Mark 15:43-46 where, having now seen Jesus' faith and courage, he was emboldened and *gathered his own* (likely also drawing strength/courage from Nicodemus also, John 19:39) to: 1) ask Pilate for the body; 2) lovingly took it down from the cross; 2) wrapped it a linen sheet; 3) laid it in (his own, Matt.27:60) new tomb; and, 4) closed the tomb; all of which took tremendous courage. It takes *courage* to become even a *secret disciple* of Christ,

but your faith and trust in God can grow and *take courage* from others so that you can do things you never previously imagined!

**Conclusions:**

- **We have the inspired record of tremendous people of faith who acted *courageously*, Heb.11:32-38. *Gather courage* from them!**
- **We also have wonderful examples of *courageous* brethren right here at Southport. *Gather courage* from them also!**
- **With such a “*great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily surrounds us, and let US run with endurance the race that is set before US, fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God,*” Heb.12:1-2.**
- **So to borrow from Mark 10:49, “*Take courage, arise! He is calling for YOU!*”**