



Roman Soldiers, Two Pharisees, and a Thief

1. The Two Pharisees: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea

Nicodemus: John 3:1-15 Nicodemus comes so _____ to faith in Jesus
 John 7:50 Nicodemus takes a stab at _____ Jesus
 John 19:38-40 Nicodemus provides _____ for Jesus Burial.

- Nicodemus knew Jesus was at least _____ God.
- Nicodemus was conflicted because following Jesus would _____ him greatly.
- Nicodemus risked _____ in the end to give honor to Jesus.
- Nicodemus was in _____ the whole time, and God was very patient.

Joseph of Arimathea: John 19:38-40 He was a _____ disciple of Jesus

- Joseph believed and followed, but more as an _____ disciple.
- Joseph also risked everything by _____ for Jesus body and honoring it.
- Joseph was an early believer, reluctant to be _____, but still served.
- Joseph's hard thing was to go _____ and make his faith _____.

Both Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea both had to do something very hard.

- They had to _____ their Earthly comfort and successes for Spiritual Truth
- They had to give up _____ plans and hopes for gaining God's favor and reward.
- They had to _____ Jesus teaching and transfer their faith and hope to HIM.

2. **The Soldiers and the Thief:** Both anonymous and eternally _____

The Soldiers: John 18 Perhaps present at Jesus arrest (John 18)

John 19 Perhaps they participated in the crown of thorns
For sure they were part of Jesus execution team
They gambled for Jesus garments
One of them put a spear in Jesus side

Matt 27:54 They exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

- a. After watching Jesus arrest, trial, abuse, crucifixion, and death ... "Surely ..."
- b. After hearing Jesus forgive, care for his mother, cry out to God ... "Surely ..."
- c. After experiencing God's notifications of his deity ... "Surely ..."
- d. They were still missing the _____. (Romans 10:9-10)

The Thief: Luke 23:40-43 "Remember me when you enter your kingdom"

- a. He was raised as a Jew and therefore had some _____ training.
- b. He has walked away from faithful living to live an _____ life.
- c. He observed the same things at the crucifixion that the soldiers observed.
- d. His hard thing was making an _____ decision right then and there.
- e. He was _____ on the spot, that very day.

- Are you:**
- a. Wanting to believe, but afraid of the _____?
 - b. Believing, but _____ in case it doesn't work out?
 - c. Hearing and seeing things about Jesus that are _____ you towards belief?
 - d. Realizing that _____ is the exact right time to make a decision.