

# Sunday Sermon Questions • 1/18/2026

## Mark 15:16–47

### Faith in Plain Sight

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus both made their allegiance to Jesus public at a moment when it was costly and unpopular. In what ways might God be calling believers today to make their faith visible even when it risks reputation, comfort, or approval?

### When Expectations Break

The women standing at a distance expected an entirely different ending than the one they witnessed. How do we respond when God doesn't act according to our expectations? What does faithful endurance look like in those moments?

### The Power of Small Acts

The sermon highlighted that the women ministered to Jesus throughout His ministry, even though they weren't performing public miracles or preaching. How does this shape our understanding of "ministry"? What might it reveal about how God values service that often goes unnoticed?

### Approval of God vs. Approval of Man

Pilate chose the approval of the crowd, while Joseph chose the approval of God. If people close to you were asked to describe your life, whose approval would they say you pursue most? What practices or habits can help redirect our hearts toward honoring the Lord over seeking the approval of others?

### Divine Details

The burial of Jesus fulfilled multiple prophecies (such as Isaiah 53:9) and was orchestrated through ordinary decisions by real people. How does recognizing God's hand in the small details of this story impact the way we view the "ordinary" parts of our own lives?

### Standing Apart

Joseph of Arimathea separated himself from the influence and expectations of his peers in order to honor Jesus. When have you experienced tension between faithfulness to Jesus and fitting in with those around you? What helped you navigate that tension?

### Prayer Prompt

Lord, give us the courage and faith of those who stood with Jesus when it was costly and confusing. Strengthen our hearts to choose Your approval over the approval of others, to serve You in both visible and quiet ways, and to trust that You are at work even in the unseen details of our lives. Make us bold witnesses of Your love, Your power, and Your grace. Amen.