

Communion is...

Communion is a well of living water springing up in me...

Read Matthew 27:55-61

God always provides for His own. He is always thinking ahead of us and preparing for our every need.

And many times He uses us to provide that care for one another. This was true even in the way He cared for Jesus. See God knew that when Joseph of Arimathea became a follower of Jesus, not only was he finding his greatest need of salvation, but he would be someone God would use to care for His son's body after He died. Joseph had the concern. He had the courage. And he had the means.

See it appears that no one else had thought about it. The religious and governmental leaders hadn't prepared past their pride of killing Jesus upon the cross. Most of His followers had run away in fear. And for the few who remained when His dead body was still upon the cross, most were women, so their hands were tied in a culture that only allowed for them to do but so much.

But Joseph was a rich man, and a Christ follower who was burdened for the body of Jesus. I believe God placed that burden on his heart. So, probably using his wealthy influence, he courageously went to Pilate and requested the body of Jesus. We then read in verses 59-60, ***“Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.”***

Most of us are probably familiar with the church being referred to as the “body of Christ” in Scripture. We won't ever use our resources to care for the physical body of Jesus, but we can look at the example of Joseph to see how to care for the body of Christ, His church. Joseph gives us

- an example of preparation, in that he had prepared a tomb.
- an example of giving his best, as it was a new tomb and a clean linen cloth.
- an example of courage, as he went to Pilate. Before this, he had been a secret follower of Jesus because of fear.
- an example of compassion, as he cared for Jesus' body with such great care.
- an example of sacrifice, as he used his resources to care for Jesus.
- an example of unity, as we read in John's Gospel that Nicodemus and Joseph worked together in taking care of Jesus, Nicodemus providing the spices.

I want to courageously and sacrificially use my resources to care for the concerns of Jesus body, but I also know that like many of Jesus' followers, I can have a tendency to be self-focused and fearful. But when I come to the communion table, Jesus can turn my gaze to the needs in His body and remind me that in Him, I now have a never ending supply of living water within me that can overflow out of my life and into the lives of others. I am so thankful that God saved me through Christ, but I also pray that He knows He can flow through me as well.

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, may Your living water flow through me to minister to Your body...

