Courage

Mark 15:43-44
43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

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One of the keys to successfully walking in the Kingdom of God is courage. Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy man, a prominent man of good reputation. He probably held a high office [a member of the council] perhaps a senator. He would have had high standing among the Jews leader and the Roman government. Yet this was a man called by God for a very specific task. He was not satisfied with being an important man in his society or just a wealth man in the community. The Bible says he was waiting for the Kingdom of God! This meant that Joseph's heart was set on pilgrimage, he was a sojourner on earth, his hope was in the Messiah, not on the temporal desires of this world. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Joseph was instructed to take charge of the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion. This meant risking it all, his reputation among the high priest and the Jewish Council would be ruined. His position with the Roman government would be comprised, he could potentially lose many special privileges offered by the authorities.

Jesus was dead, all of his disciple had abandon him, Joseph was alone. It was the day of preparation before the great Passover, tending to the burial would disqualify him from celebrating the biggest feast day of the year. Despite all the consequence this man of Arimathea took a great step of courage and boldly when to the Pilate [the one who order Jesus to be crucified] and ask for his body.

As the president of an insurance brokerage, I remember when the Holy Spirit was calling me to proclaim Christ at our annual Christmas dinner. This meant preaching Jesus Christ to a room full of insurance company representatives, colleagues, and peers [mainly non-believers]. This was one of the most challenging and intimidating tasks I had faced as a Christian. After many days of agonizing prayer, I accepted the call. That was fourteen years ago, since then many have heard the Good News at our annual Christmas Dinner. Like Joseph of Arimathea, I had to take a bold step of faith to impact my sphere of influence which God had prepared for me from the foundation of the earth!

There is an appointed time and place where every believer will be ask to take a courageous step of faith, for the Kingdom of God. Jesus said in Matt 11:12, " *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."* We are facing a culture battle for the soul of men and women, this war will require a Holy violence in the workplace. This battle will be fought on our

knees and in deeds. I pray that you will begin to ask God today what he is calling you to do in your place of employment.

Javier F Rodriguez