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“Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night.”
John 19:38-39

“Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. *For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.*”
John 12:42-43

The Importance Of This Secret Disciple

Luke 23:50-56, Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, John 19:38-42

The Lessons We Can Learn From This Secret Disciple

His C _____

His C _____

His C _____

The Secret Disciple

The problem with trying to be a secret disciple is that over time either the _____ will destroy the _____ or the _____ will destroy the _____.

MEMORY VERSE
“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”
John 12:32

- MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .**
- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and begin to follow Him
 - Go public with my decision to follow Jesus by taking the step of believer's baptism
 - Memorize John 12:32
 - Ask God for opportunities to let others know that I'm a follower of Jesus Christ
 - Invite someone to Easter at ERBC so that they can hear about the difference that a relationship with Jesus can make in their life.



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Discussion Questions - Week #7

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "The Secret Disciple," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

GETTING STARTED

1. How would you define the word courage? Who comes to your mind when you think of the word "courageous"?

2. Share with the group something you've done in your life recently that took courage to do.

DIGGING DEEPER

3. This week, we heard how it's never too late for courage. At times, the challenge can be finding the courage to take that next step God has for us. What do these verses say about how we can gain the courage we need?

John 16:33

Psalm 27:1

Luke 12:11-12

John 14:1-3

4. Read Deuteronomy 31:1-8. What stands out to you most in this passage?

Why do you think God thought it necessary to repeat the command to "be strong and courageous" so many times?

Where were the Israelites and Joshua supposed to find their courage?

Do you feel like it takes courage to live as a follower of Jesus today? If so, why?

Is there any area in your walk with God where you could use more courage?

5. Read Acts 4:1-21. How would you summarize this passage?

Read Luke 22:54-62. What happened in Peter, that he went from denying Christ to preaching openly about him?

Which example from Peter's life do you identify with most?

How could these two passages encourage those of us who have been less than courageous in the past?

TAKING IT HOME

6. What is a small step of courage you are willing to take this week for God?

7. How can the group be praying for you this week to live with more courage to do the things God's calling you to do?

PRAYER REQUESTS