

**I. Synopsis**

During this three part series, we will encounter various individuals in Gospels whose hearts were full of joy for Jesus and witness their generosity. In this particular passage, we will see how their spirit of generosity impacted not only their lives but the Kingdom of God, as well.

**II. Ice Breaker Question**

How would you define the word, “investment”? What are different ways in which we can make investments? What makes something a worthy investment?

III. **Scripture:** Matthew 27:57-61 (ESV)

**IV. Discussion Questions**

1. Once a person is handed over to the Roman government to be crucified, all of their possessions including their physical body belong to Rome. This meant the majority of the criminals were buried in a common unmarked grave. Animals would consume the flesh of dead corpses. If Jesus had received this type of burial, how would this type of burial impacted Easter Sunday? If this had happened how could this have changed people’s view of the resurrection?
2. Jesus’ burial is one of a king based on the extravagant gifts given by Nicodemus (John 19:39) and Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:60). How did their gift invest in the Kingdom of God?
3. Based on church tradition, both Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea are stripped of their standing as members of the ruling council and their vocational position as Pharisees. Why do you suppose this is the case? Do you think they considered the cost of the sacrifice prior to giving the gift? What type of sacrifices have you given for the Kingdom of God?
4. Read Matthew 6:19-21. Jesus states, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21). Based on this teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, how did Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea demonstrate the spiritual health of their hearts? Based on Jesus’ teaching, where is your heart?