



# D'WELL BITES



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JOHN 19

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In this passage, we see a striking contrast between the decisions and actions of two individuals, Pontius Pilate and Joseph of Arimathea. Though both were fearful of men, the choices they made were vastly different.



Pilate held a position of authority, with the power to judge matters and determine the fate of others. His words carried significant weight, capable of altering a person's life with a single command. His role demanded courage, integrity, and impartiality. Yet Pilate, driven by the fear of men, cowardly condemned an innocent man who committed no wrongdoing to a horrible and unthinkable death of crucifixion reserved for the worst of criminals. This man failed miserably in history when he made the decision to remorselessly give up on Jesus in an attempt to protect his standing with the Jews.



In this same chapter, we have the story of another man, Joseph of Arimathea whose action presented a stark contrast to Pilate's. Even though he too, feared the Jews by initially keeping his allegiance to Jesus a secret, Joseph arose with remarkable courage and faith at this critical moment. He boldly requested for the body of Jesus from Pilate and willingly gave up his own tomb to give the Lord a proper burial place. In doing so, he demonstrated boldness in this difficult and volatile situation, and risked his standing within the Jewish community and thus fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 53:9.



So, where do we stand as we reflect on these two characters and their stories? Will we cower in fear, or will we take a bold stance for God when situation gets tough? The choice is ours.