



Mark 15

Mark 15:43

Only one guy in this whole chapter steps up to do the right thing

-All the other people that do stuff in this chapter do wrong, cruel and selfish things or just don't step up and do the right

-They probably all felt justified in their actions though

*There are many ways we can feel justified in not doing the right thing

How did people justify their actions?

Pilate (ver 15)

-Even though he believed Jesus was innocent he failed to step up and set him free

-He tried a couple tricks to set him free but wouldn't just flat out release him

-He was afraid of the crowds and of a riot (ver 15)

-Justified his action that he was saving people and himself from greater harm

*We don't do something now because maybe it will allow us to do something better later

The Soldiers (ver 16-20)

-They mocked Jesus and beat him

-Then they cast lots of his clothes

-Just doing their job and taking care of themselves and their family

*We can use this as an excuse to do something wrong or do only do the bare minimum

The crowd (ver 29-30)

-Called for Jesus to be crucified

-They mocked him on the cross

-Justified in this is what everyone does

*Just because it's culturally acceptable doesn't mean we should do it

*We need to have boldness and courage like Joseph to stand up and do what's right

*This may mean standing against others

*At lot of times it mean standing up against my selfish justifications

-It can be a bigger challenge at times to step up and do what's right when no one is watching

Small Group Questions

1) What are some excuses you use not to do the right thing?

2) What are some things that motivate you to be courageous and do the right thing?