

# *Crucifixion*

by John Walsh

— *Two men go on stage while having a conversation* —

Joseph: “Nicodemus, I just don’t understand. We’ve been friends a long time. Besides you are a member of the Sanhedrin. Please explain it to me. How can the high priest simply break the law whenever he feels like it?”

Nicodemus: “I really don’t have any more answers than you do.”

Joseph: “Yes, but they arrested Jesus during the night. That’s not legal! They had a Jewish trial at night. That’s not legal! He wasn’t given legal counsel. That’s not legal! Should I keep going?”

Nicodemus: “Caiaphas has the full support of the Roman government, and no one can touch him. He’ll do anything to protect that. He felt Jesus was moving people toward revolt against Rome.”

Joseph: “Still, this is a nation that prides itself on keeping the Law.”

Nicodemus: “Hey, I am a member of the Sanhedrin. But they didn’t call me when they met this morning to condemn Jesus.”

Joseph: “Well, that I understand. If I were Caiaphas, I wouldn’t call you either. He had a quorum without you, and he knew where your sympathies lay. You would have only pulled votes away from what he wanted.”

Nicodemus: “Well, it’s done now. I’m just thankful you got permission to bury the body of Jesus. They would have thrown his body in the garbage dump.”

Joseph: “Actually Pilate seemed pleased that I asked. He kept referring to Jesus as the King of the Jews. I’m fairly sure he wanted a proper burial for Jesus.”

Nicodemus: “You know, (pause) this isn’t over! Our leaders laughed at him at first. They loved seeing him on the cross. But that all changed at noon today when the sun went black. It seemed like they suddenly knew they weren’t in control anymore. They simply moved away from the cross and got as far away as they could.”

Joseph: “It was convenient that we all had to get ready for Passover.”

Nicodemus: “But Joseph, listen to what I am saying. It’s not over! I believe that. Do you realize he died right when the lamb was sacrificed – 3 o’clock.”

Joseph: “So what are you talking about?”

Nicodemus: “Remember? The Baptizer called him ‘the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.’ Don’t you think it is more than coincidence that our Lord died exactly when the Passover lamb died?”

Joseph: “I see what you are saying. And, there was that earthquake that happened at exactly the same time.”

Nicodemus: “Some of the priests told me that the Temple veil tore in half when the earthquake hit.”

Joseph: “So what do we do now?”

Nicodemus: “There is nothing we can do, except wait.”

Joseph: “I heard the chief priests talking to Pilate. They remembered that Jesus said he would rise from the dead in three days. Do you think that is what might happen?”

Nicodemus: “I don’t know. His last words were ‘It is finished.’ It might be finished with God, but I don’t think it is finished for us.”

Joseph: “Here, help me get the body down.”