

While Jesus wasn't popular among or even liked by most of the Jewish ruling class and religious leaders, He did have followers among them. Two of these were the Pharisee Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, both members of the Great Sanhedrin.¹

Nicodemus first came to Jesus in secret at night to ask Him questions. Nicodemus was eager to learn spiritual truths, and Jesus took time to answer his questions and teach him. (You can read about Nicodemus' first encounter with Jesus in John 3.)



¹ The Great Sanhedrin was the Supreme Court in Judea during the time of Jesus' life on earth.

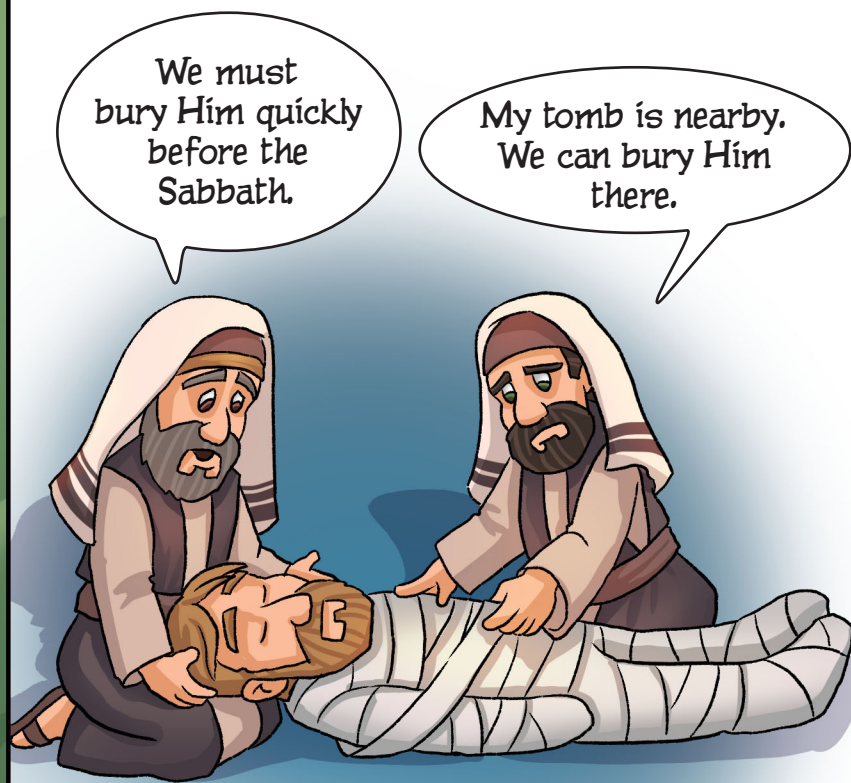


² John 3:2-3, paraphrased

*Faith-filled Models from
the Old Testament:*

**Nicodemus
and Joseph of
Arimathea**

Later, during a meeting of the chief priests and Pharisees where they spoke against Jesus, Nicodemus spoke up on Jesus' behalf and asked the others if it was right to judge a man without having heard him themselves. (You can read the full story in John 7:14-53.)



The third time Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospels, it is along with Joseph of Arimathea after Jesus was crucified.

Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple of Jesus, asked Pilate for permission to take the body of Jesus and bury Him. Nicodemus joined Joseph, and together they prepared Jesus' body for burial and laid it in Joseph's own tomb.

Therefore the prophecy was fulfilled, "His grave was with the rich in His death" (Isaiah 53:9, *paraphrased*).

