



# ARE YOU A **SECRET CHRISTIAN?**

Sermon by Father Chuck Owens | John 19:38-42

## **“Are You a Secret Christian?” Thoughts to Ponder**

1. If being a Christian were a crime, would there be enough evidence to convict you?
  - a. When you look in a mirror, do you see the person you think you are or the person you really are?
  - b. Knowing that the Lord searches the heart and knows your true identity, who does the Lord see when He looks at you?
2. “Now Joseph [of Arimathea] was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly.” (John 19:38)
  - a. He had a lot to lose if he revealed his true feelings to his secular friends. What keeps you from discussing your faith with others?
  - b. He could have had a meaningful relationship with Jesus before he asked Pontius Pilate for permission to claim His body for burial. Have you ever missed a similar opportunity?
3. Dante said: “The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality.”
  - a. Describe a situation in which you hesitated to take a stand until you determined which way the wind was blowing.
  - b. What did your hesitation cost you? Others?
4. In Luke 23:50 we’re told that Joseph of Arimathea was “a good and righteous man.” That said, when he is first introduced to us, he is not hostile to Christianity

but he isn't committed to it either. Do you know folks like that? When you look in a mirror do you see one of them?

5. Some professing Christians are like turtles: they stick their heads out for a moment on Sunday mornings, wave the Jesus flag, and then quickly retreat into their shells. Have you ever been one of them? Are you still?
6. "See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." (Revelation 3:8) Joseph of Arimathea came out of hiding by declaring his faith on the evening Jesus was crucified. Have you stepped out of fear's long shadows or are you still a secret Christian?

