

The Easter Story continued – Part 2.

After the mood at the Passover meal was shattered by Jesus' announcement of it being their last supper together, Jesus made his way into the Garden of Gethsemane and his disciples followed. Amid the olive trees and the almond blossom, Jesus prayed feverishly. Feeling terribly troubled, his disciples watched over him until the darkness of the night sky was like a blanket over them and they slept.

Suddenly, the calm and the darkness was completely broken: a team of men marched into the garden where Jesus prayed. Holding their burning torches high, the golden light flooded the garden.

Soldiers and priests made no apology for intruding. Confused as to what was going on, most of the disciples looked at the scene before them. Only Judas seemed to know what to do: he left the group of disciples and proceeded to walk towards Jesus. He then held Jesus and kissed his cheek which was instantly acted upon; the soldiers had been informed to the signal. Jesus, who must have been filled with despair, was seized by the guards roughly and marched out of the garden. Agog, the disciples fled.

With his heart racing and filled with desperation, Peter followed at some speed and saw that Jesus had been taken to the Palace of Caiaphas. He stopped in the courtyard. As he stood trembling with fear, he was recognised by one of the servants. She asked him if he was one of Jesus' followers yet, although Peter loved Jesus, he denied this claim three times. Filled with shame, Peter turned to leave and the sound of his footsteps sounded at the same time the cockerel crowed.

The following morning, Jesus was escorted outside the governor's palace along with another prisoner. In front of a huge crowd, Pontius Pilate (the Roman governor) made an announcement:

"Since it is Passover, you may choose one prisoner to go free. The first is Barabbas: a rebel and a murderer. The other is Jesus: the so-called King of the Jews."