

The Easter Story – Part 3

Wasting no time, the crowd chanted, “Crucify him!” again and again. Louder and louder. Knowing this was his destiny, Jesus’ face did not change. Pilate could not quite believe what was happening. He had given the people the choice and now he had to accept it.

“I wash my hands of this,” said Pilate wanting nothing more to do with it all.

Despite his feelings, Pontius Pilate ordered the guards to take Jesus back to the palace. Without caring how Jesus felt, the soldiers beat him; Jesus cried. There were no followers in sight, only enemies.

“Hail the King of the Jews!” mocked the soldiers as they brutally laughed and bellowed. Jesus was led back out of the palace wearing a robe of rich red fit for royalty and the cruellest crown made of thorns. The fine robe was just to humiliate Jesus as the soldiers dragged him out in it and instantly stripped him of it as they spat at him. Feeling powerful, the soldiers smirked as they watched the pain Jesus felt and witnessed the thorny crown dig in.

It was an agonising journey for Jesus despite the help offered by Simon. With hatred in their eyes, cruel soldiers watched Jesus stumble as he carried the cross. They divided up his clothes and felt even powerful. The crowds who followed Jesus on the journey felt shocked to the bone and they pitied him in such excruciating pain.

Once they reached Golgotha, Jesus and two other men were nailed to their crosses. The deepest sadness filled Jesus at what his fellow man had done to him; unimaginable pain shot through him. His cross was hoisted upright and there he hung under a sign which said, ‘This is Jesus: King of the Jews.’

Death was not instant. Onlookers stayed and felt their pain. At noon, a mysterious change to the sky took place: a strange blackness replaced the clear blue. Three hours of agony later, Jesus cried out. The earth shook. No longer feeling mighty, a centurion quaked in fear.

‘Surely he is the son of God,’ he uttered. No one felt brave enough to answer. Hatred was replaced with fear.