

## The Pain Jesus Endured . . . For You!

By Kelly T. Dixon  
Scripture: Luke 23:34

Easter has sprung up once again—and now is the time for all to start the regular rituals during this season. For many it involves going shopping for new Easter clothes for the Easter Sunday Services. For others, a service is not in their minds at all, they just know that if little Johnny doesn't have an Easter basket come Easter Sunday, then there will be trouble. We many times get so wrapped up in ourselves that we forget to focus on the real meaning of Easter. You know the story I am talking about - the one where Jesus died for your sins so that you may have eternal life. This is the basis of our Christianity - but for some reason the season of celebrating the death and resurrection of our Saviour comes and goes without us even thinking about what Jesus really did for you and me.

Think of our Saviour as Judas came and kissed Him on the cheek. When we humans are betrayed in this manner we become angry as Peter did when he chopped off the soldier's ear. But our loving Saviour just healed the soldier's ear and continued with His Father's Will. Think of our Saviour as He was beaten and spat upon. Think of how He felt as He looked upon a crowd which he loved dearly as they yelled "CRUCIFY HIM". Think of how He had to carry His cross up the hill - so weak that He was unable to carry it all the way and Simon, a Cyrenian, had to carry it for Him. Think of how He had compassion for His followers as they wept for Him. He comforted and warned them saying "*Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but for yourselves, and for your children.*" (Luke 23:28b).

Think of our Saviour as they nailed Him to the cross and still He pleads to His Father on their behalf "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*" (Luke 23:34a). Think of all the pain He had to endure as He took on ALL the sins of the earth - past, present, and future. How He must have felt in that ninth hour as some believe that the Father must have had to turn His back on Jesus because God could not look upon all the sins of the earth. For it says in scripture, "*Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?*"

Just imagine the pain our Saviour went through for you and me. He could have let you die and never have eternal life. He did not have to die for your sins - but He did. May we never forget the love of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord, our Saviour is risen! ✚