



A Roman Soldier

“Lenten Series of Monologues”

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9

“It must be known to all of you that a soldier does what he is commanded to do, particularly a Roman soldier. I was with John, who preached about Christ’s coming when some of us as soldiers asked what we should do when people wronged us. He had told us to do violence to no one, to never falsely accuse someone, and to be content with our wages. That’s sometimes easier said than done.

“I had been hearing a lot about Jesus from many people. And, I was still unsure as to whether or not I believed what he was saying. Then one evening, we were called to go to the Garden of Gethsemane to seek out this man called Jesus. One of Jesus’ own men had decided to turn him over for thirty pieces of silver. The high priests and religious leaders were anxious to get him out of their way because it was near time for the Passover Feast, and they did not want any trouble with the crowds of people that would be in town. They felt that Jesus was one that could cause that trouble. We arrived with lanterns, torches and swords. Jesus asked whom we had come to see. One of the other soldiers said ‘Jesus, the Nazarene’. Jesus admitted that he was the one we sought. At this point, I became a believer. Who would openly and so freely admit that he was the one being sought for death if he were not? But, what could I do? I was only one of the soldiers. To admit my belief would have meant death, and it would not have helped Jesus.

“We tied him up and delivered him to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas, the Chief Priest. From there we took him to the Jewish Council and then to Pilate. I did not harm him in any way. That was about all I could do.

“Pilate asked him if he was the King of the Jews. Christ said ‘If you say so.’ There was a storm of negative comments, and I knew that Pilate also had some doubts about Jesus’ being a criminal. I felt that Pilate thought they had only brought Jesus to him for spite because they could not control this gentle man who caused no trouble, but was followed everywhere he went.

“The crowds would not release Christ. He was whipped and dressed in a purple robe. They beat him with a club, spit on him, mocked him and then put a crown of thorns on his head.

“We took Christ to Goliath to be crucified; he offered no resistance. I stood by and said nothing. I know I was a coward. One soldier pierced his side with a sword. Another took his clothes and divided them up four ways, but his robe was seamless. They decided to throw dice for it; all this at the foot of the cross where Jesus who was my Lord and Savior died. I have often wondered what I should have done differently. I heard him forgive those who had wronged him. I heard him ask for forgiveness for his enemies. I heard him say that we didn’t know what we were doing, and I believed him. I know that he has forgiven me.”

Prayer: Amazing God who forgives those who sin, those who seek, and those who don’t realize what they are doing wrong, we know that you will also forgive us for our sins if we only ask. Dear Lord, please come into our lives and guide us today and every day. Amen

1. Are we ever put in a position where our life depends on our being a true witness for Christ?
2. Are we ever called on to forgive someone who has taken advantage of us or mistreated us either emotionally or physically? Do we ever need to forgive someone who tells lies about us?



“And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,”
John 19:2

Most information on the part of a Roman soldier in the crucifixion is based on what has been passed on. It may be true, it may not be. The only references to the soldiers at the time of the crucifixion are found in Matthew 8:9, Matthew 27:27; Matthew 28:12 and in Mark 15:16; Luke 3:4; and Luke 7:8; Luke 23:36, and in John 19:2-34.