



Exploring Easter – Peter’s Story

Jesus is tried and found innocent – Matthew 27:11-26

Peter couldn’t believe what he was hearing as his fellow disciple poured out the story of what had been happening. Things were so terrifying they had locked the door and were whispering, but every now and then Peter found himself pacing up and down the small room not knowing what to do with all his thoughts and feelings. He still couldn’t believe that he had let Jesus down, surely there could be a way of making it up to him. Could they rescue Jesus? No, he was now heavily guarded at Pilate’s palace, and from what was being said it didn’t seem like he even wanted rescuing.

‘So, Jesus didn’t say anything to defend himself against the accusations made by the chief priests and elders?’ Peter asked his friend again. ‘No. He just stood there, you know in that way he has like time is not even a thing’. ‘That must have annoyed Pilate’ Peter laughed despite himself. ‘Actually I think he was more frustrated with the others than with Jesus – I think he thinks that this is an internal squabble that should just be sorted by the people of Jerusalem, not something the Roman governor should be involved in’. ‘So, why doesn’t he just let him go?’ asked Peter. ‘Because they insisted that it was an issue for the Romans, and then when he said he thought that Jesus was innocent and tried to release him according to the tradition, the crowd turned on him, demanding him to release Barabbas instead’. ‘Barabbas!’ Peter shouted before he remembered to lower his voice ‘but he really is a terrorist. Jesus has done nothing wrong, apart from love people, and heal people and help them know more about God and...’ Peter covered his face with his hands as if to stop the tears that were flowing down his face. He couldn’t speak as his mind replayed the way that Jesus moved among the crowds, making everyone feel like they were special and the only person on earth. This was so unfair! Where was God in all this? This was not how it was supposed to end.

He took a deep breath and wiped his face with his sleeve. ‘Ok. So what did Pilate do then?’ he asked pulling himself together again. ‘He got out a bowl of water and

washed his hands, saying that he would not take responsibility for the decision of the crowd' 'He washed his hands?' Peter's famous temper started to rise 'to show that he was innocent of Jesus's blood as he literally handed him over to be crucified!' Crucified - the word alone was enough to cause sweat to trickle down Peter's back. He leaned on the wall and sank down to the floor as his knees gave way under him. His beloved Jesus was going to be crucified. 'I have to go to him' he said scrabbling to his feet 'I have to let him know he is not alone, that I won't let him down again'. Peter's friend caught his arm and stood in front of the door 'Don't be ridiculous' he said 'the crowd has turned against Jesus, against all of us, it is too dangerous to go out there' Peter freed his arm and lifted the latch 'I'm going, I need him know that I am never going to let him down again. Never'