

“WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON.” LENT 2021

St T's Weekly Devotional || Wednesday 3rd March 2021

WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON
JOHN 19:26



Robin Dawson

Woman, here is your son. What was in Jesus mind at this time? He was in a bad way even before he had been nailed to the cross and suspended by his pierced hands and outstretched arms to fight for every breath. In the storm of pain surely he must just have been wishing it was all over.

This is the Word made flesh, the mind of God in human flesh. Stripped of the omnipotence and omniscience of God and taking on the nature of a slave, as Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians. We have no way of knowing what Jesus knew about what was going to happen in the next three days. In Mark 9, 31 he talks about the son of Man being betrayed, killed and in three days rising again. Was he hanging there certain of this? Was he sure? Or like any human in this dreadful situation could he be doubting? Thinking that his path of obedience led him to a dead end?

As he hung there he could see his mother and John standing watching. His mother, who had conceived him in youthful obedience, watched him grow, worried about his radical teaching, marvelled at his healings and now, remembering the prophecy of Simeon, now felt the sword piercing her soul. And John, with Peter and James one of the three disciples closest to Jesus. Of the three the quiet one, the deep thinker. He was the one who later wrote about seeing the glory of the Word made flesh.

So we do know that in the midst of it all Mary and John were on Jesus' mind. John was given the task of looking after the widowed and now bereaved mother, and Mary was given the job of being mother to Jesus' friend. They could support each other in the grief of this coming black Sabbath.

And all this was happening through the thoughts of the one who at the same time was by his suffering conquering death, defeating the principalities and powers of evil and the one who directed them. And so turning the world upside down.

We cannot claim to fully understand the Word made flesh. How can God and man exist together? But God, as man, loved Mary and John individually, even as at the same time man, as God, was dying to redeem the whole of creation. Does this help us to see that we can be loved by God individually too, just as Mary and John were?

