



# Who Carried the Holy Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ?

*Written by: Father Tadros Malaty*

**I**n Jerusalem, Simon and his two sons, Rufus and Alexander, could not find an empty room in any inn, as there were about two million Jews coming to Jerusalem to offer the Passover lamb.

Rufus said, “I’ll buy the Passover lamb this year. You, Alexander, bought it last year, and Dad bought it the year before. Now, it is my turn to buy it and obtain this blessing. No one seem to disagree with Rufus’ offer. Simon the father was deep in thought, unaware of what was happening around him.

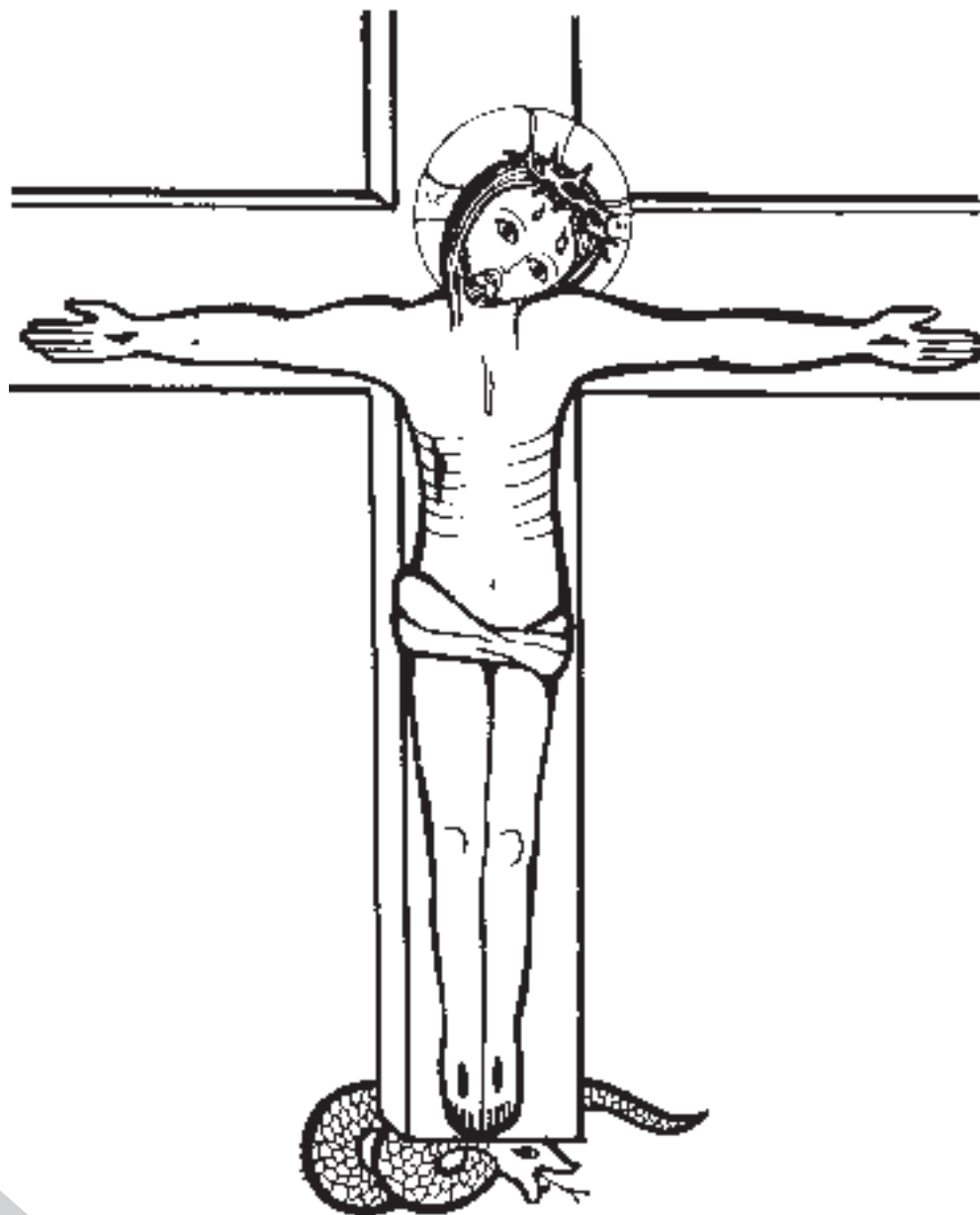
Alexander said, “What are you thinking of, Dad? I have noticed you keeping solemnly quiet these last two days.”

Very quietly and in a soft voice his father said, “I am thinking of all that is happening around me. I hear you discussing who will buy the Passover lamb, but I feel that I am thinking often of the Lord Jesus Christ. I find Him a very spiritual person and I am overwhelmed by His Words and deeds. I am seriously thinking of remaining here in Jerusalem to follow Him and not to return to Cyrene.”

Rufus answered, “It’s true, father, that the Lord Jesus Christ is indeed great and wonderful and we are all eager to follow Him, but...”

“Why are you sighing, Rufus?” Alexander asked.

“I have heard disturbing news,” Rufus answered. “Herod





is planning to kill the Lord Jesus, but what is even more alarming, is that all the high priests are trying to get rid of Him as well. The high priests are just waiting until after the feast so that the people will not riot, as so many of them love the Lord.

Simon then interrupted, “They can do what they please, but God who is able to raise the dead will not be affected by any evil plans. Even death cannot overcome Him. He will certainly NOT die!”

Alexander said, “Father, I heard the Lord Jesus Christ saying to His disciples that He will be handed over by the elders and be put to death but upon the third day, He will RISE again! This news has spread among many believers but no one is certain exactly what He means by saying He will rise again.”

Simon said, “Do you believe that the One who raises the dead can die? If He will be raised on the third day, why then must He die? Regardless, He will surely overcome death!”

Their mom said, “Oh! How strange! Thousands of people are busy killing the sheep, others are preparing for the feast, Herod is planning to kill the Lord Jesus Christ, the scribes and elders are busy thinking of honor and glory, but only the Lord Jesus Christ is busy thinking of the salvation of everyone!”

Each and every hour that passed, Simon’s desire to follow the Lord Jesus Christ grew. Simon followed all the happenings of the Holy Week and finally the Lord Jesus Christ came out carrying the Holy Cross on His way to Golgotha. All His Body was bleeding as He had been whipped brutally 39 times. Simon and his family were among the crowd who had followed the Lord Jesus Christ.



Simon felt as though he were in the middle of a nightmare. He said to himself over and over again, “Can this really be occurring? What did the Lord Jesus Christ do to deserve what was happening to Him?”

The Lord Jesus Christ suddenly fell under the burden of the Holy Cross and it was evident He was extremely tired and physically exhausted. He could not even lift Himself up to carry the weight of the heavy wooden Cross.

The soldiers looked both right and left. One of them pointed toward Simon and loudly ordered Simon, “You, man, over there, come here and carry this Cross.”

Simon started to hesitate, “I, I cannot do that.”

“I order you to carry the Cross” said the soldier.

Simon did not utter one single word in reply. The soldier then said, “Do you understand what I said?”

The two sons tried to defend their father, but the father fearing that his sons would be imprisoned or beaten by the cruel soldiers, hurried and lifted up the Lord Jesus’ Holy Cross. He silently thought... “This Cross is so very very heavy...”





Simon said to himself, “How was the Lord Jesus able to carry such a heavy wooden Cross after being beaten and whipped 39 times and having a crown of painful thorns placed upon His head?”

One of the two sons, Alexander, said in a low voice to his father, “Why did they choose you? Is it because you are not from Jerusalem?”

Simon looked at his sons and said, “This is God’s choice. He sent me here to Jerusalem. It is a great honor for me to carry the Holy Cross of my beloved Lord Jesus.”

The Lord Jesus Christ looked at Simon and spoke to him in spiritual words, “Blessed are you Simon for carrying the Cross of shame for Me. I am carrying this Cross for your sake and for the sake of others. You will have the glory for sharing in My suffering. Thank you Simon!”

Simon answered in a low voice, “Now I know that You are truly the Messiah. Thank you for offering Your life to save me, and I thank You for choosing me to carry the Holy Cross for You. I believe in You and I love You very much and I want to tell others about Your great love!”

## **It has a will**

**A huge chunk of wood cannot resist the flood, and is  
swept along by it wherever it goes.  
But a small fish can resist the current and is able to go  
where it wants to go.  
That is because it has a life and has a will.**

(His Holiness Pope Shenouda III)