

Love and Victory

*Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.—
Romans 4:25*

As I thought of Easter and the different themes, I contemplated God's mercy, grace and forgiveness. I thought about how the people He cared about failed Him: in the Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal by Judas, and the denial of Peter, I thought about the mistreatment of our precious Lord when He stood before the Sanhedrin, when people brought false testimony, and when the High Priest examined Him. I realized that all the accusations were not because of evil He had done; He was totally righteous. His Divinity was challenged. Even Pilate knew He was innocent, but turned Him over to be crucified. The crowd chose to release a murderer in His place. He was maltreated by the soldiers, beaten bruised, spit upon, mocked, and even a crown of thorns pierced His brow.

The torture of the cross was intense. He continued to endure the indignities as the crowd railed and the religious leaders mocked Him. Yet through all his physical, mental, and emotional pain, He responded in love for His enemies. He exclaimed, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."

As He was hung between two thieves, one mocked Him, and taunted Him to save Himself. He could have come down from the cross, but He was there willingly because of His amazing love for us. The other thief realized Jesus' love and forgiveness.

With all the things I thought about, the two things that made the greatest impression were LOVE and VICTORY. God's motive was love for you and the outcome is victory. Only God's infinite love would have kept him on the cross for sinful man. How or Why? I will never understand, but what I do know is that It is love. The second theme that impacted my life this week was that of VICTORY. I am so thankful that Christ's sacrifice did not end in the grave, but that He arose! His victory over sin and death made my salvation possible.

*Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain, And He lives forever with His saints to reign:
He Arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*