

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS Reflections by Jenny Hawke

### 8. MERCY

As he travelled towards his crucifixion, Jesus was surrounded by a hostile, angry, jeering crowd. Seeing that he was stumbling, the soldiers pulled an innocent from bystander the crowd and forced him to carry Jesus' cross. All we know about him is that his name was Simon, and that he was an immigrant. Had one of the soldiers taken pity on Jesus, or had Simon stepped forward in an act of mercy towards a stranger?

Either way, Simon took the burden of the heavy cross and his kindness enabled Jesus to continue his lonely journey. Kindness, particularly from strangers, is unexpected and can make a huge impact on our lives.

'And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.'  
Mark 15 v 21

*The figure carrying the cross for Jesus doesn't realise the significance of what he is doing. He is taking the weight of the world momentarily on his shoulders whilst Jesus falls and struggles on. The cross glows with a life of its own. Jenny Hawke*

**This act of kindness by Simon must have got him covered in Jesus's blood and sweat, but it was an act of mercy. Christians are called to be compassionate and merciful to people around you. Open your eyes to the suffering in this world and have mercy on those in distress.**



*J. HAWKE*

**MERCY**

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