



CRAYONS TO COFFEE CUPS



Removed and Buried

During this Lenten season, we have taken a closer look of the Stations of the Cross. Last week we delve into the stations of Jesus is stripped of His garments, Jesus is nailed to the cross and Jesus dies on the cross. This week I will discuss the last two stations: Jesus is removed from the cross and Jesus is laid in the tomb. The thirteenth station, Jesus is removed from the cross and given to His mother. Typically when a man was crucified, even after they had died; their body would have been left on the cross for days or weeks. The reason for this was as a warning to all who might have thoughts on creating an uprising against the Roman Empire. But because the Passover was to begin at sundown, the Romans removed the bodies of Jesus and the two thieves. Mary was at the foot of the cross waiting for her son to be placed into her arms. The soldiers place Jesus' limp and cold dead body on the ground. Mary crawls over, lifts up the dead shoulders and for a moment caresses Jesus' head in her lap. No one can imagine the wrenching pain that penetrated Mary's heart as she held her Son for the last time. We have all heard the phrase, "A mother should never have to bury her own child." It is quite certain that as she sits there in the dirt mingled with blood, she is longing to hold her precious child again as she did 33 years ago. Joseph of Arimathea approaches Mary and those that surround her to inform them he has a tomb that they can bury Jesus in. The fourteenth station, Jesus is laid in the tomb. Jesus body is prepared for His burial with the help of Nicodemus who brings a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They must quickly prepare Jesus' body for sunset is approaching and according to Jewish law all labor must cease. Darkness is almost here and the spices and aloes are applied and His body is shrouded. Before the tomb is sealed with the large stone, Mary Magdelene and His mother tearfully say their one last goodbye. As the sun has now set, it is all finished: Jesus is dead, buried and the Sabbath is here. As we contemplate what took place, let us too lay Jesus in the tomb of our hearts. Jesus wants to be placed in a heart that pleases God. A heart that cries out for Jesus to amend our sinful ways. A heart that longs to comfort both Jesus and His mother Mary. But as gentle soft breeze comes over your heart, you know that he did all of this for you. *"No greater love than this that one should lay down his life for his friends."* **–Sherrle Clutts DRE**