

God Works in Bad Days

It was one of the sad realities of living as a subject of the Roman Empire.

As you traveled, a Roman soldier could stop you in your tracks and force you to carry his gear for up to a mile. Jesus mentioned this practice in the Sermon on the Mount, and He instructed His followers to go a second mile.

On the day of Jesus' crucifixion, it wasn't military gear that Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry, but the cross. Jesus had apparently collapsed under its weight after being severely beaten. And Simon happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Or so it must have seemed to him.

None of the Gospel writers tell us what happened to Simon after his stint as cross-bearer for Jesus. Mark, however, gives us a clue. He notes that Simon was "the father of Alexander and Rufus," and tradition holds that they became missionaries. The reference to them in Mark 15:21 suggests that they were men of some standing in the early Christian community at Rome.

It seems that Simon, in witnessing the crucifixion and the events surrounding it, may have come to faith in Christ and then passed that faith on to his two sons. Apparently,

God had taken what should have been a bad day for Simon and turned it into the greatest imaginable.



In your personal life or in the work you are called to do in Life Care and Century Park, perhaps a dark day comes along once in a while. Trouble, sorrow or frustration may have an overpowering effect. Let Simon's situation be an example.

It's easy to see God's blessings on good days, but our bad days may bring us even closer to Him.

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2-4 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter