



**St. Veronica**  
July 12

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AD 33 • Jerusalem

A woman stood on the path to Calvary. Jesus, her Lord, would soon come by carrying His Cross. The woman's face streamed with silent tears as she thought about Jesus, whom she loved with all her heart, going to His death on a cross.

Now she could see Him. Slowly and patiently, Jesus dragged the heavy wooden beam that pressed heavy against His shoulder. He was as silent as a lamb being taken to the slaughter.

He stumbled on a rock in His path and fell to the ground. The woman rushed to Jesus and sank on her knees before Him. His precious blood streamed down from the wounds inflicted by the crown of thorns, and sweat covered His brow. The woman took the cloth of her veil and, with great love and compassion, she wiped the blood and sweat from Jesus' face.

The gratitude that glowed in Jesus' eyes pierced the woman's heart with sorrow and joy. She was sorrowful because of Jesus' suffering, but joyful that by her one small act, she was able to show Jesus how much she loved Him and to give Him some small comfort in the midst of His suffering.

Jesus struggled back to His feet, aided by a man named Simon of Cyrene, whom the soldiers had pulled from the crowd to help Jesus carry His Cross.

The woman clutched the veil to her breast as she watched Jesus continue His painful walk to Calvary. The veil was precious to her, now stained as it was by Jesus' drops of blood. She raised the veil to her lips and kissed it. Then she opened the veil and gasped.

There, on her veil, was an image of Jesus' face.

Jesus had miraculously imprinted the image of His face on the woman's veil to give her comfort and to thank her for her kindness and compassion.

Later, the woman would rejoice when she heard the news of Jesus' Resurrection. She kept Jesus' image as a treasure, and many great miracles of healing occurred when people touched her veil and prayed to Jesus.

We call the woman with the veil "Veronica," which means "true image" in Latin, because Jesus gave her the gift of the true image of His face when she compassionately wiped His brow with her veil.

St. Veronica, help me to show Jesus how much I love Him with small acts of love and compassion!