

## **Interview 1**

### **David Jones**

Good evening, I'm David Jones

Tonight will be the first of a series of interviews I'll be conducting from an undisclosed location near Jerusalem with three men who have a unique connection to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Each individual brings a different perspective to the situation. I have been given exclusive access for this series and have agreed to keep the location confidential in order for these men to speak openly about their experiences. In my first interview, I will be speaking with Matthew, one of the followers of Jesus who has spent the last several hours in hiding and agreed to speak with us only after assurances that the location was secure.

### **DJ**

I appreciate you talking to us Matthew.

Let me start by just asking you what these past 24 hours has been like for you?

### **Matthew**

[pausing, subdued and anxious]

Awful ... I ... I can't find words to describe what it's been like.

### **DJ**

Have you been with the other followers of Jesus during this time?

### **Matthew**

[nervous]

I don't know where the others are .... It happened so suddenly.... We all just scattered... I have no idea where anyone is.

**DJ**

Were you afraid of being next?

**Matthew**

[looks directly at DJ]

Of course... we were there ... We heard what they were saying ... That's why we all just scattered.

**DJ**

When you say 'they', who are you talking about? ... The Romans or the Jews?

**Matthew**

Everyone... It was clear by what people were saying that this was just the beginning.

**DJ**

[pausing before he redirects the conversation]

Talk to us about the night Jesus was taken into custody... I understand you all ate supper with him that night.

**Matthew**

Yes ... we were all together.

**DJ**

What was the mood?

**Matthew**

[reflective with some warmth]

It was good... it was like any other night really... until he started talking about it again.

**DJ**

Talking about what?

**Matthew**

Dying... He often spoke of dying ... [he pauses and smiles] ... He had a great sense of humor too ... We'd be laughing and having a good time and he'd say, " You guys are having way too much fun. Don't make me remind you how this story ends"... Sometimes he'd be joking, but other times he'd have that look that made us pause ... We were all uncomfortable when Jesus talked about dying.

**DJ**

And on this night, what did he say?

**Matthew**

He took bread and passed it around to each of us... then he passed around a cup ... He told us this is his body and his blood that would be given up for sin ... He said it was a new covenant between God and man ... That the body and blood would be the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.

**DJ**

How did everyone react to this?

**Matthew**

I don't think anyone really knew what he was talking about... It was quiet ... No one said anything ... I don't think anyone knew what to say, really... You could feel the heavy spirit as he spoke... But we had all learned from being with him that it was important to listen to what he says ... You may not understand what he's saying, but you knew that eventually it would all make sense. [he stops and shakes his head] Not that it makes a lot of sense now.

**DJ**

Did anyone question him?

**Matthew**

[looking directly at DJ]

We didn't have to. We were with him for so long, we just knew the importance of listening to what he spoke about and eventually, everything would make sense... Especially when he spoke about dying. [pauses in thought, then smiles] He'd be talking about dying and suddenly stop. We'd all look up and he'd be smiling with the warmest eyes and say, "You guys have no clue of what I'm talking about. That's okay. I need to tell you these things while I'm here, because the day will come when I'm not here and these words I have spoken will come back to you and make sense."... He was always telling us to pay attention to how he spoke to people, especially the religious leaders... pay attention to the way he interacted with the broken people. Don't over think everything, just pay attention and open your heart to the words I say and the way I treated others.

**DJ**

How long do you think it will be before it all makes sense?

**Matthew**

It doesn't make any sense right now. But I was with him for a long time. So many nights sitting around the fire in the middle of nowhere listening to this man speak. He spoke a lot about love. Like no one has ever spoken before. It was clear that love was the message Jesus wanted us to hear. And the next day, in the next village, he would show us the love he spoke about. Right now nothing makes sense because we don't yet understand the love he spoke of. But we all grew up with a message to obey. But Jesus said life was not for us to obey, but to love. I'm sure that all this chaos will make sense when we all learn to obey the love and not the laws.

**DJ**

We'll be right back.

As they go to break, Matthew is washing his face with cold water as DJ encourages Matthew for being so candid and open in his responses. Matthew mostly just wants to get it over with.

**DJ**

Welcome back. I'm talking with one of the followers of Jesus in an undisclosed location.

I appreciate your speaking with us Matthew and know that you are eager to move on, so I'll get right back to our discussion.

After you ate, you all left Jerusalem to a location you would often go. Tell us what happened when you were approached by the people who would arrest Jesus.

**Matthew**

It happened so fast ... we were all resting when we heard some noise coming up the trail. It didn't sound good. People showed up with clubs and swords and were clearly hostile in their demeanor. They really looked angry... Judas was with them and it looked like he leaned over and whispered something to Jesus ... at that moment, the others grabbed Jesus ... Peter grabbed a knife and went after one of the men, but Jesus stopped him... [Matthew shakes his head as he pauses in thought]... We didn't know what to do... They quickly took Jesus away ... Jesus didn't even question them ... we were confused ... a couple men stayed behind to make sure we wouldn't try anything until they got far enough away. Then they told us it was over and we should go back to where we belong... We just stood there... We didn't understand any of it.

**DJ**

Did you follow him to Jerusalem?

**Matthew**

Andrew finally broke the silence by asking Peter what we should do... Peter said we should go to the city, but split up ... he really believed we were in danger too and would do better if we were not all together... So we did ... And that's the last time I saw any of them.

**DJ**

When they were having the trial, did you know or understand what was going on?

**Matthew**

Noone understood what was going on ... I kept a distance because the crowd seemed so hostile ... but I could hear a lot of the comments ... speculation mostly ... I don't think anyone knew what was going on.

**DJ**

How did you feel during this time of the trial?

**Matthew**

I was actually feeling pretty hopeful. I'd seen Jesus do so many wonderful things. I trusted Jesus to get out of this in a powerful way... I kept saying to myself, 'come on Jesus, show them who you are.' ... over and over again... I just had a feeling that Jesus would come out soon with that engaging smile and everything would be okay.

**DJ**

What were you thinking when Pilot brought him out with Barnabas and offered him to the crowd?

**Matthew**

The crowd got louder and louder ... yelling crucify him ... I was quietly fading back away from the crowd... but inside, I was cheering Jesus on ... 'Come on Jesus, make your move now ... show them who you really are once and for all.

**DJ**

But Jesus didn't do or say anything, right?

**Matthew**

He just stood there ... blood dripping from his forehead ... beaten ... Just looking out at the people with that look of passion... They were yelling 'crucify him' and he just stood there looking out at them... That passion in his eyes ... It made no sense.

**DJ**

Where were you when he was carrying the cross to Calvary?

**Matthew**

I kept my distance... Down the road, by some trees ... waiting.

[Matthew shakes his head]

**DJ**

[seeing that Matthew has had enough]

Waiting for Jesus to make his move?

[Matthew just shakes his head in agreement]

When did you know it was over?

**Matthew**

[ pauses before he looks at DJ with moist eyes]

When I heard his mother cry out in agony

**DJ**

We'll leave it there. I know this has been very difficult for you and I really do appreciate your taking the time to share with us your unique perspective of this incredible event.

When we return, we'll speak to one of the Jewish leadership that was at the trial to get his perspective.

Good night.