

Crucified One. He is without mercy, and will slay and spare not all that resist him. When I heard of his purpose, I made haste to return to Damascus, that I might warn the brethren. Surely it were better to flee into the desert than to perish miserably under the scourge."

His voice died away into silence, and in the hush the voice of the mother singing to her babe floated up to them.

Ananias moistened his dry lips. "Didst thou say that the man laid his hand also upon women and babes?" he asked huskily.

"More than once hath he seized the mother and left the little ones desolate in the house—for so it was told me in Jerusalem," replied Simon. "Yet it may be that the Lord hath had mercy upon us. I heard a strange thing concerning the man as I came hither to-night; it was told me by Ben Ethan, one of the keepers of the Eastern Gate. Yesterday, at about the ninth hour, a company of men approached the city, some riding upon beasts, others walking. In the midst was a man, whom also two of his comrades led by the hand. When the head keeper questioned them, saying, 'Who are you and whence do ye come?' One made answer, saying, 'The chief man of our company is Saul, a worshipful rabbi from Jerusalem. He beareth letters from the Senate and Council of Israel to the governor of this city.'

"Let him appear then and speak,' quoth the keeper of the gate. To whom the other made answer, 'The