

Matthew 27:27-31 ESV

What Was the Perspective of the Soldiers Who Mocked Jesus?

Services: Wednesday, March 29 at 11:00 & 7:00

Church Year: Fifth Wednesday of Lent – 2017

Wednesdays of Lent: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today is the fifth Wednesday of Lent; today we focus on Jesus' amazing love for us – *as we focus on what He endured for us!*

1. **Let's Put Things into a Proper Perspective:**

- a. Jesus is the very Son of God in human flesh, *but we are mere human beings.*
- b. Jesus is totally sinless, *but we are totally sinful.*
- c. Jesus deserves no punishment, *but we deserve pain, suffering, physical death, and eternal punishment.*

2. **Events which Led Jesus into the Hands of the Soldiers:**

- a. Teaching and Miracles: Jesus taught the truth of God the Father ([John 12:49](#)); then, *to prove those teachings to be true*, God the Father worked mighty miracles through Jesus!
- b. Plot: The result of the miracles was that many believed in Jesus and followed Him, which
♦made the Jewish leaders jealous, ♦caused them

to be concerned about their jobs, and moved them to devise a plot to have Jesus put to death!

- c. Arrest: When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane late on Holy Thursday, Judas led a very large crowd, *armed with swords and clubs*, to arrest Jesus – not because He had done anything wrong, *but to take a crucial step in the plot to have Him put to death!*
- d. Trials: Jesus was put on trial five times – *late on Holy Thursday and early on Good Friday*; first, He was taken to Annas – *the former high priest*; second, to Caiaphas – *the current high priest*; third, to Pilate – *the governor of Judea*; fourth, to Herod Antipas – *the ruler of Galilee and Perea*; and fifth, back to Pilate.
- e. Sentencing: Annas and Caiaphas wanted Jesus crucified, *but they had no authority to carry out that punishment!* As the trials progressed, it appeared that Jesus might be set free; however, between the persistence of the Jewish leaders, their stirring up of the crowd against Jesus, and, ultimately, the plan of God the Father ([Acts 2:23](#)), *Jesus was delivered over to be crucified!*
- f. Scourging: Both Matthew ([27:26](#)) and Mark ([15:15](#)) record that Jesus was scourged, then delivered over to be crucified, *thus delivered over to the soldiers*. But John includes some additional details: Jesus was scourged (*that means He was left bloody, weak, in excruciating pain, and near death*); then he was mistreated by the soldiers and presented again to the crowd with

Pilates's somewhat famous words, “Behold the man!” (19:5). Then ➡ the crowd shouted, “Crucify”; then ➡ Pilate questioned Jesus further, still seeking to release Him; then ➡ Pilate received more pressure to crucify Jesus; and then ➡ Pilate delivered Jesus over to be crucified.

3. **The Soldiers Added to Jesus' Horrible Suffering:** Based on the account in John's gospel, *Jesus was scourged and then mistreated by the soldiers*. We know the scourging was horrible – *leaving Jesus near death, thus unable, later, to carry His own cross*. But now we focus on the HORRIBLE SUFFERING Jesus endured at the hands of the soldiers. Again, keep in mind, *these things happened AFTER He was scourged*:

- a. They gathered many soldiers: ²⁷ **Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.** // The Greek word for “battalion” is σπεῖραν, which is literally translated “cohort.” A Roman cohort normally included about 600 soldiers; *think about that, just Jesus against all of those strong, tough, ruthless, highly trained Roman soldiers*. But don't forget, *Jesus is the very Son of God in human flesh*; at any moment He could have stopped the horrible mistreatment, *but He suffered in silence (Isaiah 53:7) for us!*
- b. They painfully dressed Jesus like a king: ²⁸ **And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,** ²⁹ **and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right**

hand. // Jesus' clothes were removed for the scourging; now, again, to mock Him by dressing Him like a king. **Dr. Kretzmann:** "They braided a crown of sharp thorns and pressed it down upon His head, thus lacerating the skin. They placed an old rod into His hand instead of a scepter" (NT 1:156). Let's take a closer look at the crown...

- c. They horribly treated Jesus: **And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"** ³⁰ **And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.** ³¹ **And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.** // The soldiers not only bowed in mockery, *but much worse*; from their perspective, *Jesus was just another helpless victim!* **Dr. Kretzmann:** "Their real nature came out in the climax of their torture, when they grew tired of acting, and spit in His face, while some of them took the mock scepter and drove the thorns still more deeply into the sensitive skin of the forehead by sharp blows" (Ibid.). With all such things, Jesus was not helpless, *He could have stopped His pain*, but He didn't. Why? He was *perfectly obedient to the Father's plan* and showed *perfect love for us!*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus, we have all sinned, *but You took our eternal punishment*; by Your wounds, we are healed. *Thank You so much!* And all God's people said: Amen!

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