

He Was Mocked, We Are Delivered

Jesus was Mocked by Many!

Wednesday, 3/25 at 11:00 & 7:00

Fifth Wednesday of Lent – 2020

We are still open; if you are healthy and want to come, please do!

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Our midweek series has touched on ✓ Jesus' fasting, ✓ His prayer in Gethsemane, ✓ His six trials, and ✓ His crucifixion.

As we think about the way to heaven, *it is 0% us and 100% God*. It was always God's plan that JESUS ALONE would do everything necessary to remove our sins. Therefore, *about 700 years before the time of Jesus*, we find these words recorded by *Isaiah*, *as spoken by the Son of God, before He put on human flesh*: "I have trodden the winepress alone... I looked, but there was no one to help (63:3, 5 ESV).

Today we focus on Jesus being mocked by ♦ the soldiers, ♦ those who passed by His cross, ♦ the Jewish leaders, and ♦ even the criminals crucified next to Him. Dr. Giessler, in his newer book – *Solving NT Mysteries with OT Clues*, notes that "all four (4) basic groups of society tortured [Jesus] with their cruel words—(1) the passer-byers who represented the *common, ordinary people*, (2) the ruling priests who represented *the religious establishment* of the church on earth, (3) the soldiers who represented *the governments of this world*, and (4) the two robbers who spoke evil in line with *the world's criminal element*."¹

¹ <https://www.amazon.com/Solving-New-Testament-Mysteries-Clues/dp/1643485547>

1. **Mocked By the Soldiers** (Matthew 27): In this section, we go back to the time *right after Pilate sentenced Jesus to be crucified*:
 - a. **Insult:** ²⁷ **Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion [σπεῖρα, thus a cohort of soldiers, which normally included about 600 men] before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him [Why? “to take the place of the royal purple mantel [a loose sleeveless garment worn over other clothes] that was worn by kings” (Lenski, 1101)], ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. // With the robe, crown, and reed – they made fun of Jesus!**
 - b. **Injury:** **And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed [the dried stalk of a tall plant] 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 further insulted Jesus by spitting on Him. Then, as they struck Him on the head with the reed, they demonstrated that Jesus’ authority was – in their eyes – less than nothing. Sadly, many governments of the world today also see Jesus as less than nothing 😞.**
2. **Mocked By Those Who Passed By** (Matthew 27): Now, *at this point*, we go ahead in time to when Jesus had already been nailed to His cross.
 - a. **Temple:** ³⁸ **Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him [so they blasphemed, reviled, insulted Him], wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You**

who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! // Earlier in Jesus' ministry – after He had driven the merchants out of the temple, *the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to do a miracle to prove His authority.* Jesus said to them, **“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”** ... [The Bible tells us that Jesus] **was speaking about the temple of his body”** (John 2:19, 21 ESV), even though they thought He meant the Jerusalem temple.

- b. **Come down: If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.** // Jesus could have come down; according to His human nature He wanted to come down; *yet He stayed there for you and me!*

3. **Mocked By the Jewish Leaders** (Matthew 27):

- a. **Come down:** ⁴¹ **So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,** ⁴² **“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.** // As noted above, Jesus could have come down, yet He **✦stayed, ✦endured much pain, and ✦paid our penalty, even for those Jewish leaders!**
- b. **Let God deliver him:** ⁴³ **He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”** // They just didn't understand... *Jesus is God's only Son, the Promised Messiah!* He was on the cross *because He was following God's perfect plan for our eternal salvation!* Peter preached these words on the Day of Pentecost – 50 days after Easter: **“...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed... [But] God raised him up”** (Acts 2:23-24 ESV).

4. **Mocked By the Criminals:**

- a. **Both** (Matthew 27): ⁴⁴ **And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. //**
Take note here that initially BOTH robbers mocked Jesus; however, the Holy Spirit was at work, and He changed one of their hearts!
- b. **One** (Luke 23): ³⁹ **One of the criminals who were hanged [on his cross] railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”** ⁴⁰ **But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?**
⁴¹ **And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”** [*Wow, a complete turnaround; as he hung on his cross, the Holy Spirit gave Him faith in Jesus as his Savior!*]
⁴² **And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”** ⁴³ **And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” //** With “remember me,” he confessed his faith; then Jesus assured him of his entrance into paradise!

Conclusion: What was Jesus’ response to the mocking, name-calling, reviling? Peter wrote: “When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him [*that is, to God the Father*] who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:23 ESV).

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, TYSM for all You endured for our salvation! When people mock us, help us to be like You!