



"Jesus: Tortured and Humiliated"

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Mark 15:15b-23 (NLT)

Pilate ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified. The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it.

FRIDAY MORNING 8:00 A.M.

ANTONIA FORTRESS

NOTE: Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures were written by human authors who told the story of the passion of Jesus as they witnessed it. The Gospel writers each emphasized what they believed to be important and omitted details that another writer includes. Taken together, we see the whole picture.

LUKE – omits the mockery and flogging, but he alone tells us that Pilate sent Jesus to “stand trial” before King Herod Antipas.

JOHN – tells us Pilate had Jesus flogged *before* pronouncing his verdict in hope the crowd, seeing Jesus bloody and beaten, would change their minds.

MATTHEW AND MARK – tell us that *after* Pilate pronounced sentence the guards took Jesus to be flogged and then took him inside the Antonia Fortress where they mocked and humiliated him.

PHYSICAL TORTURE: FLOGGING

Flogging defined: The act of methodically whipping the human body with a rod, switch, or cat-of-nine-tails.

About flogging

- A common practice in 1st century – used by Romans and Jews.
- In the U.S., some prisons flogged prisoners; slaves were flogged; soldiers were flogged by our military in the Revolutionary War.
- No longer used by western nations.
- In many Islamic countries, Sharia Law prescribes flogging for offenses such as fornication, alcohol use and slander.

The flogging of Jesus

- Hands tied. Bent over a whipping post.
- Soldiers specially trained in the art of flogging were used.
- Roman soldiers used a cat-of-nine-tails made of leather and tipped with lead to bruise and tear the flesh.

“The sufferer’s veins were laid bare and the very muscles and tendons and bowels of the victim were open to exposure.”
--Eusebius, a third century church historian

ISAIAH 50:6 (NLT) – *I offered my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from mockery and spitting.*

EMOTIONAL TORTURE: HUMILIATION

MARK 15:16 (NLT) – *The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor’s headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment.*

The humiliation of Jesus

- Stripped him naked
- Put a purple (color of royalty) robe on him
- Put a crown of thorns on his head
- Put a reed in his hand (as a mock scepter)
- Spit in his face, struck him with their fists, knelt before him shouting, “Hail, King of the Jews!”