



The Scourge, the Scorn, and the Scripture

Key idea:

Jesus faithfully endured scourging and scorn, strengthened by His understanding that these sufferings fulfilled the prophetic Scriptures and were according to God's will.

Key text:

Mark 15:15-32

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. 16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. 17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. 25 It was the third hour when they crucified him. 26 The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!" 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Key points:

1. Jesus endured intense physical and emotional suffering through scourging and scorn.
2. The events of Jesus' crucifixion fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.
3. Jesus' response to suffering serves as an example for believers.
4. Christ's sacrifice was necessary for our salvation - for us to be saved meant that He could not save Himself.

Discussion Questions:

1. The teaching describes the brutal nature of Roman scourging. How does understanding the physical suffering Jesus endured impact your view of His sacrifice?
2. Mark's gospel emphasizes the scorn heaped on Jesus more than the physical pain. Why do you think this emotional/spiritual suffering was highlighted? How might it relate to our own experiences?
3. How does the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in Jesus' crucifixion strengthen our faith in God's sovereignty over seemingly chaotic events?
4. The Scripture teaches that Jesus' response to suffering is an example for believers. What aspects of His response challenge you the most?
5. Reflect on the statement: "He refused to save himself because he loved you." How does this shape your understanding of the gospel?
6. In what ways might we be tempted to 'save ourselves' rather than fully trusting in God's plan, even when it involves suffering?
7. How can we cultivate a mindset that looks beyond present suffering to the 'joy set before us', as Jesus did?
8. What does it mean for us to 'entrust ourselves to him who judges justly' in the face of unjust treatment?
9. Bret mentioned that anger often stems from feeling God isn't running the universe as we think He should. Can you relate to this? How can we grow in trusting God's sovereignty?
10. How might our response to opposition or persecution serve as a powerful witness to the transforming power of the gospel?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, when faced with criticism or unfair treatment, practice responding as Jesus did - without retaliation or threats. Reflect on how this impacts you and others.
2. Spend time meditating on one of the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion. How does this deepen your appreciation for God's plan of salvation?
3. Identify an area where you struggle to trust God's sovereignty. Commit to praying about this daily, asking for increased faith and understanding.
4. Look for an opportunity to "bless" someone who has wronged or insulted you, following the example of Christ.
5. Memorize a verse from the sermon (e.g., Hebrews 12:2-3 or 1 Peter 2:21) to encourage you in facing opposition or suffering.