

Bible Study – March 24, 2021

Punished for Me – Matthew 27:27-37

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

²⁷Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. ³⁰They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

³²As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ³⁴There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is jesus, the king of the jews.

DISCUSSION

1. The crucifixion can be difficult to think about. We recoil from the violence of the whole event.

What is your reaction to the crucifixion?

2. There were three groups of people in particular around Jesus’ crucifixion. The first group is called the angry – those who respond to Jesus like the two criminals who hung on crosses next to Jesus.

What makes you upset with God?

3. In his crucifixion, we see that Jesus cares deeply for us and our pain. He willingly endured the cross so that he might rescue us from a similar fate. We must remind ourselves by acknowledging “If God saved me from my greatest condemnation, he won’t abandon me in my struggles.”

What could it look like for you to trust him in your pain?

4. The second group was made up of those who misunderstood Jesus, the religious leaders who mocked him and his mission. While you may not mock Jesus or laugh at those who follow him, if you think Jesus was just a good man or teacher or spiritual guide and not the savior and Son of God, you have misunderstood him and his mission. *Read Matthew 27:38–44.*

Who do you think Jesus was? What do you think was his purpose?

5. The last group are the outsiders, like the Roman centurion, who saw Jesus for who he was. *Read Matthew 27:45–54.*

Jesus died for people far from God so that they could be saved. Jesus did not wait for the centurion to clean up his life before dying for him. And if God was willing to save one of the men who mocked, tortured, and crucified him, how could he not do the same for you?

LAST WORD

Jesus went to the cross after an unjust trial for you. He endured suffering and same in your place so that you would not have to experience God’s wrath for sin. Jesus completed his work, tearing the veil of sin that divided you from God.

NOTES:
