

The Scourging and Mocking of Jesus (Mark 15: 15-20)

- The world's wisdom can't understand God's power: "*none of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory*" (1 Cor. 2:7,8)
- Mark is pointing out to the suffering Roman church; this is what the world does.
- Note: 1) The **conspiracy** of the religious leaders- they want Jesus crucified (v1)
- 2) The **confusion**: Pilate asks "are you a king?" Jesus replies "it is as you say"(v2)
- 3) The **charges**: Jewish leaders slander Jesus & accuse him of many crimes (v3-5)
- 4) Pilate, desperate to pass Jesus off, tries to use a Jewish **custom** to free him (v6)
- 5) Crowd, now at frenzy point, makes their **choice**: Barabbas over Jesus (v7-14)

I. The Chastening (15:1)

- It seemed Pilate would release Jesus, but the crowd threatened Pilate (John 19:12)
- Note: "**So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas**"
- Pilate completely floored by the crowd's response knew they meant business
- Mark continues: "**and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified**"
- Flogging preceded crucifixion, but that wasn't Pilate's immediate plan (Jn 19:4-6)
- The suffering of the Son of Man was intense but it was also vicarious (Isa 53:5b)

II. The Contempt (15:16-20)

- Note '**the soldiers lead him away**' Jesus, handed from group to group (Is 53:7b)
- Vs 16-18 – not the merciless mocked and molested by the whole battalion (17-19)
- a) *Robed in purple*: disrobed, a faded purple soldier's mantle is draped over him
- b) *Crown of thorns*: this symbolized the curse in Gen 3:18. He bore Adam's curse
- c) *Mocking homage*: they mockingly bowed before him calling him King of the Jews
- d) *They struck him*: when they knelt, they took his reed staff & struck him with it
- e) *They spat on him*: They sink lower than beasts and spit in his face
- As soul wrenching as these details: some valuable & needful lessons are learned:
- a) *Man's mind darkened*: How blind to think Jesus is a false claimant to the throne
- b) *Man's heart depraved*: Unbridled sadism triumphs, what an empty triumph it is!
- c) *God's word is dependable*: What had been predicted was being fulfilled (Isa. 53)
- d) *Christ's purposes durable*: He did it all without complaining for Joy (Heb12:2)
- Finally, they dressed him in his own clothes and led him out to crucify him (20)
- Pilate again enters the picture: John 19:4,5 his efforts fail, Jesus is to be crucified