

## 67. Mk 15:16-20 Jesus Said and Did Nothing (GCC—3/30/25)

**Mk 15:16-20**—“The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on Him. And they began to call out to Him, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ 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. 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.”

### **Introduction**

Who knew silence can be so potent.

- When Pilate saw Jesus say nothing when the Jewish leaders were attacking with their malicious accusations, he was amazed.
- Yet, despite his amazement at Jesus, did you see what he permitted his soldiers to do with Jesus in our passage?
  - You know, some amazement don’t mean too much, do they?

### **The soldiers**

- I. Do you know what usually happens when there is a gathering before Jesus?
  1. In heaven—when the angels and the heavenly citizens, like Abraham, Moses and David, gather before Jesus, they praise and worship their God, their Maker.
  2. On earth—when the people come before Jesus, they usually gather to hear Him teach heavenly truths and witness miracles that are amazing.
  3. So, in our passage, as the soldiers gathered before Jesus, what were they going to do—were they going to praise the King like the angels would, or were they gathering to listen and to drink God’s incredible truths taught?
    - What great things were these soldiers anticipating to do, as they all gathered before Jesus?
- As we know, sadly, these soldiers were not gathering to praise God or be blessed, but they wanted to have a little fun, at the expense of Jesus.
  - Let’s see what they thought was fun.
    1. They dressed Jesus with a purple robe, to honor Him as royalty, supposedly.
    2. They placed a crown on Jesus’ head, but a crown twisted with thorns, that is.
    3. They must have shouted loudly to Jesus, “Hail, king of the Jews!”
    4. Then, they repeatedly struck Jesus’ head with a staff, who was still wearing the crown of thorns.
    5. They spit on Him.
    6. In mocking reverence, they fell on their knees, supposedly paying homage to the king.
      - And, after they had their fun, they led Jesus out to crucify Him, that is, to kill Him, to abort Him.
        - Does that sound like fun to you?—The soldiers thought so.

## II. Why would the soldiers do that?

- It was customary that the soldiers would gather and have some fun before they crucified the criminals.
  - Of course, the criminals they crucified were usually the scum of their society.
- But, today was probably the first time they ever had the opportunity to poke fun at someone so much higher than they, a real king, at least, that's what they were told.
  - So, they dressed Him the part—with the royal purple robe, and a crown of thorns placed on His head, and as they would before a real king, they knelt before Him, and called out, "Hail, the king of the Jews."
    - Wow, they were used to have fun only with scoundrels, but what a special and different entertainment, to poke fun at a royalty, and the best part was, there would be no repercussions today for disrespecting the mighty king.

Did you know, when truth is twisted, lies multiplies?

1. When God first created people in His image, He created only two types, a man and a woman, a male and a female.
  - **Gen 1:27**—"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."
    - But, did you know, according to Dr. Shaziya Allarakha, MD, from the website site MedicineNet, as of 2/9/24, they said, besides the two genders male and female, they said there were 72 more genders.
      - God created two, but our world multiplied them into 74—lies multiplies.
2. According to God's word, life already exists in the mother's womb.
  - **Ps 139:13**—"For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb."
    - But, many people in our world would teach that babies inside the mother's womb are not people yet, so they legally permit a baby to be aborted.
      - I have a question for people who are pro-choice, pro-abortion, or as the president of Planned Parenthood called it, freedom of reproductive system, and the question is—what if your mother aborted you before your birth, because she wanted to exercise her freedom to her reproductive system, would that be ok with you?
3. Like the thorns twisted, so much of God's truth are twisted in our world.
  - And as we saw, **even thorns can be twisted to look like a crown.**
    - Even the worst of things can appear to look as if it was a crown.
      - Let's not allow the fine sounding arguments some people present, twist them into a crown, because just as a crown of thorns would hurt, these fine sounding arguments for reproductive freedom actually kill and abort.
4. Let me highlight for us, another twist the soldiers presented to us.
  - They clothed Jesus with the purple robe fit for royalty, kneeling before Him, and shouting words of reverence, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

- If we could not discern their hearts, then their outer appearance, their visible actions, their words, they all sounded and looked good.
- If they were not twisted, then they would have been God honoring.
- But, for all of their wonderful looking deeds and words, sadly, they were twisted.
  - They did not come from a heart to glorify their God.
    - Their intentions and their desire were evil.
    - They did it for fun, at the expense of someone else.
    - They were entertained, at the expense of someone else's pain.
    - For a few laughs, they spit, they hit, they ridiculed, they mocked.
- May I say, it's really terrible when people make fun of others for a laugh.
  - One of the worst irresponsible comment I find is when some people say, "It was a joke," when their joke hurt someone else.
    - Did you know, some people suffer a stroke or a heart attack or look embarrassingly unhinged, by what they just experienced, and the people who did them, want to dismiss it, as a prank or a joke?
    - I find comedies and comedians distasteful, when they manufacture a laugh at the expense of someone else's pain.

People, how would we know what truths are twisted, if we don't learn God's truth well?

- Please, if you are not studying and learning God's truth regularly, then you must, all God's people must study and learn God's truth diligently.
  - Unless we are held tightly by God's truth, we will be easily swayed by the lies.

## **Jesus**

Let's now turn from the twisted things, and behold our Lord Jesus in our passage.

- Did you notice what Jesus did and say throughout His ordeal with these soldiers?
  - **Mk 15:16-20**—"The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on Him. And they began to call out to Him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' 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. 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."
- What did Jesus say and do?
  - Jesus said and did nothing—isn't that amazing?
    - How can Jesus say nothing, when they were mocking Him so shamelessly?
    - How can Jesus do nothing, when they were spitting at Him, hitting Him on His head, when He could have easily gotten rid of these evil people?
    - How can Jesus not return evil with evil, an eye for an eye, when their evil was so egregious?
    - How can Jesus treat them silently when they were so maliciously shouting, mocking Him, ridiculing Him, and disrespecting Him?

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- How can Jesus be so merciful, when they truly deserved the wrath of God, which Jesus had at His disposal to use?
  - Jesus is truly amazing; His mercy is incredibly amazing.
    1. Jesus heard the evil things they were saying to Him—and yet, He was quick to listen, slow to speak, and even slower to be angry and retaliate.
    2. Jesus felt the vicious pain they were inflicting—and yet, He chose to be long-suffering; He chose to suffer for their evil.
    3. Jesus knew He wasn't living for the happiness of this present life—so, He said and did nothing, because that is how He will pass-over the present, in order to save and lead His people into His glorious kingdom.
    4. Jesus knew, so He said nothing and He did nothing—all because His love for us would bless Him to endure all the pain and trials, even the cross for us.

A word of caution here.

- The image of Jesus in our passage is not the only image of Jesus we need to see and grow into.
  1. Remember, Jesus knows how to be angry and overturn tables and throw people out of the church, for turning His house of prayer into a den of robbers.
  2. Jesus knows how to call out sin, as He did to the Samaritan woman for her adulteries.
  3. Jesus told Peter that his heart is really evil, for not having God's heart.
- So, let's understand, Christianity is not always about being passive, non-responsive, and become victims of whatever evil people may throw at us.
  - There are times and places and moments when we must learn to act decisively to make the wrong right.
- However, the Jesus we behold in our passage today shows us something different, which we must earnestly also seek to learn and to grow more like He.
  1. In our passage, Jesus did not return evil with evil, so when we are facing evil, let's pray that we would also not be so quick to react and seek justice, just because what they are doing is evil.
  2. In our passage, we see Jesus say nothing, do nothing, even though He could have destroyed all these people for their wrong, but for the greater good, to seek the salvation of His people, Jesus says and does nothing.
  3. In our passage, we see Jesus chooses **mercy over justice**, for that will accomplish for Him and His people His greater purpose.
- Jesus wasn't suffering because He couldn't help it, but to help His people, He willingly chose to suffer, and chose to be quiet and do nothing.
  - Let's not let the world decide what's strong and good.
  - No one is as good as Jesus and no one is as strong as Jesus.
    - And Jesus, in His goodness and strength, chooses to say and do nothing, all for the glory of God and for the salvation of His people.

## **In closing**

As we can see, the greater and broader view of Jesus we have, the greater the ways we can learn and grow more like He.

- And that is what our lives should be—**to see more of Jesus**, so that we can fall in love with Jesus more and to also learn and grow more like Him, not in just one way but in so many of His wonderful ways.
  - This week, I saw again, how small my heart is.
    - I received an email letter from one of my missionary friend, who has served in Yemen a long time, translating God’s word into their language.
    - Prior to receiving his email, I was ok with the US bombing Yemen, because they were battling the Houthis.
    - But, as my missionary friend requested prayers of peace for the people of Yemen, I realized, God’s loving heart for these people.
      - I wanted justice for the Houthis, when Jesus gives us mercy, not justice over my sins.
      - I realized again, how small my heart is, and how much more I need to see Jesus; how much more I want to love like Jesus.
- Did you know, the way to love Jesus most, **is to taste His love for us greatly?**
  - And His love is most savored when we drink His love that pours from His cross.
    - **1Jn 3:16**—“This is how we know what love is: **Jesus Christ laid down His life for us**. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”
      - Dear brothers and sisters, we can never lay down our lives for others in love, unless we first drink Jesus’ love for us on the cross?
- Christianity is always responding to what Jesus has first done for us.
  1. That is why, we can never truly forgive simply out of the largeness of our hearts, but we can forgive as we first taste Jesus’ forgiveness for us.
  2. We can never love out of our own goodness, but we can truly love and serve others when we first taste how He loved us.
    - And the best and greatest way for us to taste God’s love for us—is to taste, how Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.
    - I pray that for every person we know, we would pray that our love ones will truly taste for themselves that—Jesus Christ laid down His life for him, for her.

Let me end this message by making our passage a little more personal for us.

- Instead of Jesus, envision—your mother or your child or yourself—receiving what Jesus received in this passage, and let’s re-read this passage.
  - **Mk 15:16-20**—“The soldiers led Jesus (your mom—your child) away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on (mom-child). And they began to call out to Him, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ Again and again they struck (mom-child) on the head with a staff and spit on (mom-child). Falling on their knees, they paid homage to Him. 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.”

## **Responsive Praise**

How deep the Father's love

## **Prayer Time (Robert Wall)**

1. Pray for our hearts—to drink deeply from the Living Fountain and to grow more like our Lord Jesus.
2. Pray for our church family— for physical and spiritual wellness.
3. Pray for our worship—that we will taste God's goodness in our worship.

## **Church News**

1. **Welcome**—
2. **Monthly Prayer Time**—we will meet today @11am @Pastor Joshua's office.
  - Join us as we pray together and build God's house more into a House of Prayer.
3. **Prayer Warriors**—meet on Wed evenings from 8-9pm at our individual homes.
  - For questions, please speak with Caty, our Prayer Ministry Leader.
4. **2024 Contribution Statement**—Contribution statements are available upon request. Please contact, Joanna, our Finance Ministry Leader ([joannakim70@gmail.com](mailto:joannakim70@gmail.com)) to receive yours.
5. **40 Days of Lent Prayers**—LCC is holding the prayer meetings at 6am, from Tue-Sat, until Easter.
  - If you need a place to pray with other believers, this is available for you.
6. **LCC worship time change**—Starting on 4/20, they will have only one worship service at 11am.
  - Their Sunday School classes will also be @11am.
7. **Easter Sunday (4/20)**—We celebrate our Lord's resurrection; He is risen!
  - We pray for God's blessing over our church, as we make three commitments during this Passion Week (Mon-Fri; 4/14-18).
    1. A commitment to pray—let's pray every evening from 8-9pm, wherever we may be (that we will truly experience God's love in Jesus' cross for us).
    2. A commitment to read God's word—let's read the gospel of Mark during this week, 3 chapters a day (No daily QT for this week).
    3. A commitment to fast in two ways—
      1. Let's fast one meal a day (we recommend dinner).
        - As we fast, may we learn that we do not live by bread but by God's word (Matt 4:4).
        - On Friday, we will fast from 9am-3pm, the six hours Jesus was on the cross.
      2. Let's fast (abstain-resist) a word or a deed or a habit or a thing or a desire that makes us stumble often into sin.
        - And let's pray that this fast will continue for the rest of our lives, as we wrestle against our sinfulness and desire to grow more into Jesus' likeness.

## **Calendar for April**

- 4/6 (Sun) — Worship (with Communion), followed by fellowship and Devotion Time
- 4/8 (Tue) — PLT Meeting @7pm
- 4/13 (Palm Sunday) — Worship, followed by fellowship and Devotion Time
- 4/17 (Maundy Thursday) — Family worship, with foot washing
- 4/18 (Good Friday) — Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm at church
- 4/20 (Easter Sunday) — Worship, followed by fellowship (No Devotion Time)
- 4/27 (Sun) — Worship, followed by fellowship and Prayer Time
- Wednesdays—Prayer Warriors pray in our homes (8-9pm)

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