

Mrk59 – On The Way To The Cross – Mark 15:16-20

20 years ago I read a book by Max Lucado
called "He Chose The Nails"

& every time I teach this section of the gospels
what I felt – reading that book – RE-INSPIRES me

There was nothing that happened to Jesus
On The Way To The Cross - that he did not sovereignly plan

Every event had a purpose

in Every MOMENT - On The Way To The Cross
There was a Sign

We've GOT to ask – WHY?

WHY, Lord, did you go thru these things?

What MESSAGE were you sending to us

When you Sovereignly Orchestrated every event
On Your Way To The Cross?

Let's Pray

In our last 3 msgs in Mark – We’ve seen:

The Mock Trial before the SANHEDRIN

The Denial of PETER

And Jesus before PILATE

& Last week – PILATE didn’t have the COURAGE
To make a Decision - FOR Jesus

Because it would “Cost Him too much”

So we finished last week with

Mark 15:15 (NLT)

15 So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Altho he could find NO FAULT in Jesus

Giving in to the crowd -

PILATE ordered TWO THINGS to be done

1) that Jesus be FLOGGED with a lead-tipped whip

2) that Jesus be CRUCIFIED

Those were the two orders - *[repeat]*

& both orders were carried out by the soldiers

But something happened in between those two orders
that puts on - Horrific Display . . .

- 1) The **DARK UGLINESS** of **our sin**
- 2) The **IMMEASURABLE LOVE** of **God for us**

Romans 8:7 (NLT)

7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God . . .

& in **our vs's** today - we **see** our **Sin Nature**
Ruthlessly HOSTILE toward **God**

BUT – in **RESPONSE** to the **UGLINESS** of our **Sin Nature**

We **see** the **Immeasurable LOVE** of **God** – **Toward us**
As Jesus is “**On The Way To The Cross**”

& So - FIRST – Came the FLOGGING (scourging)

Which was the **most Brutal** & **tortuous PAIN**
the **Romans** could **inflict** – **SECOND only** to **the Cross**

The **victim** was **stripped**, & **chained** to a **post** or **pillar**

& **he** was **beaten** **By** At Least **TWO TORTURERS**
until the **victim** was **close to death**

The **torturers** used **leather whips** with **lead** or **glass tips**

that **would SHRED** the **back** of the **victim** wide **open**
Exposing - **muscle** - & even **bone**

and **then** the **victim** would be **taken** - **to be crucified**

& Jesus was Subjected to this HORRIFIC Scourging
& Left Close to Death

BUT – AFTER the Scourging of Jesus

We read in Mark 15:16 (NLT)

16 The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment.

Now - This part was NOT ordered by PILATE

These events came out of the soldier's own sin nature

& guys - the Soldiers here

Represent OUR OWN Sin Nature

& in their Brutality toward Jesus

there is a MESSAGE – FROM Jesus – TO us

It starts in - Mark 15:17–19 (NLT)

17 They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head.

18 Then they saluted him and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!”

19 And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship.

This Brutalizing – Humiliating – Demeaning - Degrading
Attack on the person of Jesus

Was NOT ordered by Pilate

& was NOT part of the soldier's job.

BUT – in **this DARKEST DISPLAY** of the **Sin Nature**
Jesus is **Sending US** - a **MESSAGE**

The **Cross** & the **Resurrection** – (& our **FAITH** in those **events**)
is what **brings** us **Salvation**

So – What is ALL THIS Horror about?

This is **about** a **Message** **Prophesied** way **back** in

Isaiah 50:6 (NLT)

6 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.

Guys - **NOTHING** happened
On The Way To The Cross

without God's **Sovereign Hand** guiding it

& In these – "**In-Between**" **events**
Jesus was **Sending US** - a **Message**

& the Message is this:

Jesus is **willing** to **carry** the **extreme ugliness**
of **our sin** – **All the Way to the Cross**

& he is **willing** to **Pay** the **Full Penalty** for it **there**
On OUR Behalf

FIRST - The Soldier's Spit Symbolizes the Ugliness of our Sin.

The Praetorium housed HUNDREDS of Roman Soldiers

With most likely DOZENS of Soldiers
spitting in the face of Jesus – as they Demoralized him

& Jesus Carried That Spit
Mingling with his own blood

as a Symbol of the Ugliness of OUR SIN –
All The Way To The CROSS

SO THAT we might HEAR the Message from Jesus today

That he is willing to carry the ugliness of your sin - to the cross –
where he will deal with it - once & for all

In the Spit running down his face - Jesus is saying to us

No matter how ugly your sin is – I will carry it –
mingled with my own blood - to the Cross

But it wasn't just the Spit

Jesus also Carried, on his Head, the Crown of Thorns

again - **Mark 15:17–19 (NLT)** → →

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18 Then they saluted him and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!”

19 And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship.

So **a soldier** goes **out** - & **weaves** a **Crown of Thorns**
from a **vine plant** (with **two inch** thorns) that **grows** in that **area**

& He **puts** the **Crown of Thorns** on the **Head** of **Jesus**
& **V.19** **says** they **beat it down** on his **head** - **with a stick**

I HAVE a **Crown Of Thorns** at **home**
Made from this **SAME vine**

& **those thorns** would **easily Pierce**
into the **SKULL** of **Jesus**

BUT - This is **NOT PART** of the **Crucifixion**
This is **NOT PART** of the **Orders** given by **PILATE**

To the **Soldiers** - **this** is **just** - **Degrading Humiliation**

But – **to US** – **This is a Message** (**sign**)

Because - The **Crown of Thorns**
symbolizes - **THE CONSEQUENCES** of **our sin**

all through the Bible
thorns symbolize the Consequence of sin

& the Consequence of OUR sin
Was beat down onto Jesus

who had never experienced
ONE consequence – for ONE sin

Jesus never knew sin

Until the Consequences of OUR SIN
ALL fell on him at once

like the Crown Of Thorns
being beat down on his head

ALL of the Consequence
of ALL of the Sin of the World
ALL fell on Jesus - at once

With an Unimaginable Level – of PAIN & ANGUISH

& - just like THE SPIT

The CROWN OF THORNS
sends us a Loud & Clear Message

That not only will Jesus carry
the UGLINESS of our sin to the Cross

But he will also carry
the CONSEQUENCES of our sin to the Cross

Jesus loves you enough

to Carry ALL the Ugliness,
& ALL the Consequences - of your sin, to the Cross

where he will pay the Full & Complete Penalty for it ALL
so that you - will never have to

& FINALLY there is – The Exchange of Garments

What had to happen in the courtroom of Heaven
for God to accept

the price Jesus paid on the Cross -
as full payment for every one of our sins?

It was the Greatest Exchange in all Eternity

& it was Symbolized for us - On The Way To The Cross
in the Exchange of Garments.

Mark 15:17 says - They dressed him in a purple robe

But Matthew 27:28 says (NLT)

28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him.

The colors are similar –
& BOTH are appropriate for Jesus

But notice – MATTHEW Points out
an EXCHANGE of Garments

We know that Jesus wore a SEAMLESS Garment
which Represented his SINLESSNESS

& Matthew makes it clear - - they STRIPPED HIM
of the Garment that Represented his SINLESSNESS

& - PUT ON HIM
a Scarlet Garment that Represented - OUR SIN

& in this Exchange Of Garments
We see a perfect picture

of what HAD to HAPPEN

for Our Sin to be Put on Jesus

and for the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD to be Put on Us - in Christ

The SOLDIERS thought they were Mocking Jesus

but JESUS knew - he was sending US an Eternal Message

& the Message is THIS

That JESUS is willing to be “Clothed in OUR Sin”

so that we can be “Clothed in the Righteousness of God” - in Him

The Prophet ISAIAH Wrote

what we see pictured in this Exchange of Garments

Isaiah 1:18 (NLT)

18 “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. (Exchange)

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us . . .

Jesus Christ became a Curse in our place

He took our CRIMSON SIN upon himself
in all of its Ugliness - & all of its Consequences

& he Carried it to the Cross

& THERE – He Paid the FULL & Complete PENALTY – For It

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Exchange Of The Garments should shake us to the core

When we realize Jesus Christ - Willingly, Purposely
became Sin - in our place

So that we could become the Righteousness of God - in him

Guys - you can't EARN this

You can't EARN God Becoming Sin in your place

& then Paying the Full PENALTY that YOU deserve

There's nothing you can do to EARN THAT

You can't live a GOOD ENOUGH LIFE – to DESERVE That

**This is the Undeserved – Unconditional - Sacrificial LOVE
of the God of Heaven – For YOU**

Writing about these Moments – On The Way To The Cross

Commentator William MacDonald says:

If they had only known! It was God the Son they clothed with purple. It was their own Creator they crowned with thorns. It was the Sustainer of the universe they mocked as King of the Jews. It was the Lord of life and glory they struck on the head. They spat on the Prince of peace. They mockingly bowed their knees to the (actual) King of kings and Lord of lords.

There are SO MANY SIGNS – Orchestrated by God

To show His Unconditional Love for US

& to Prove his Victory - on our behalf
over Sin, Death, & the Grave

But – aren't these enough?

Aren't these enough

for us to Humbly come to Jesus?

To **give him** the **UGLINESS** of **our Sin**

& to **give him** the **CONSEQUENCES** of **our Sin**

& to **Receive** the **Free Gift**

of **SALVATION** & **ETERNAL LIFE** – that **he offers** us **today**

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gift - of **Forgiveness** of **our Sin**

& **Eternal Life** with **God**

Is **FREE FOR US** to **Receive**

But it **COST JESUS - EVERYTHING**

Jesus Carried

the **UGLINESS** of our Sin – **to the Cross**

Jesus Carried

the **CONSEQUENCES** of our Sin – **to the Cross**

Jesus PAID

the **FULL PENALTY** of our Sin – **on the Cross**

& Jesus BEAT Sin & Death

ON our Behalf – in the Resurrection

& we can RECEIVE

ALL that **Jesus** has **done for us - today**

By **humbly coming** to **him**

& Receiving - the **FREE GIFT** of **Forgiveness** of our **Sin**

& the Promise of **Eternal Life**

ALL by Faith Alone

We can be FORGIVEN of our **Sin**

& we can be ASSURED of an **Eternity in Heaven**

By **Putting** our **Full & Complete Faith**

in **what Jesus Christ** has **done** for **us**

& Making him our **SAVIOR** - **& our LORD – TODAY**

Let's Pray