

Pastor Jim Jackson, 8/16/26
Days With Jesus, Day 56—The Truth Suffers
John 19:17-27

Jesus suffers CRUCIFIXION

Before crucifixion, the death sentence plaque (Gr. *titulus*; in Hebrew, Greek, Latin) was hung on Jesus' neck and he was forced to carry the crossbeam (Gr. *stauron*) out of the city to Golgotha ('place of the skull'). Jesus used this as a picture of discipleship (Matt. 16:24, 25). To 'pick up your cross' was to acknowledge you were on your way to die and losing everything. *Be willing to lose everything on earth to gain everything from heaven!* He was then laid on the ground, arms stretched out, and a spike nailed near each wrist joint. The crossbeam was lifted onto a vertical beam already driven in the ground forming the shape of a 'T,' not a singular stake (John 20:25; 'nails in his hands'; John 21:18, 19; Alexamenos graffito, late second century). The feet were put on each side and spikes driven through each one. The plaque was then nailed above the victim's head. *It wasn't the nails that held Jesus to the cross, it was love!*

Jesus suffers MOCKING

Depending on the severity of flogging, a person could hang for hours or *days* pulling on the nails to breathe. Most crucifixions ended in asphyxiation as the lungs filled with fluid. It was so brutal, Romans would rarely crucify their own except for traitors. The word 'excruciating' means 'from the cross.' *Jesus endured hardship to teach us to endure hard things* (Heb. 12:2, 3)! Earlier in the week, thousands cheered 'Hosanna!' meaning 'save us now' (Mark 11:9). But when he refused to be a political leader, the people turned on him. As he hangs on the verge of death, the same people now mock and insult him. *Be addicted to pleasing God, not people; He's the only one that matters at the end* (Luke 12:4, 5; 2 Cor. 5:9, 10)!

Jesus suffers HUMILIATION

The tunic was a soft garment worn next to the skin. As clothing is expensive, soldiers gambled for it at his feet (Ps. 22:18). The last piece of Jesus' property was taken by his executioners. *Don't live for the things you can't keep* (Matt. 16:26)! As his own family didn't believe in his ministry, as the oldest son, Jesus charges John to care for his mother (Ex. 20:12; Mark 3:21). Even at the very end of his life, Jesus was thinking about how he could serve others. *We're like Jesus the most when we serve like Jesus the best!*