

MATTHEW 27 vs 26

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26 Then he released Barabbas to them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus to the Praetorium, the common hall, and gathered the whole band of Roman soldiers around Him / these are men of war...borderline thugs and criminals, themselves.

28 And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe / a royal robe... after all... He was King. He was not a victim; He permitted this abuse and humiliation. That's the Lord of glory.

29 And when they fashioned a crown of thorns / you know, in Genesis 3... at the beginning of the fall of mankind... when the LORD God promised the Seed of woman one day would crush the Serpent's head... yet even, the ground would be cursed... and thorns and thistles would adorn it, and it shall bring forth to you. And to all those that labor down here, ain't that the truth? John Tyndale, who first translated the modern English bible... his hand-written copy fell into the sea! Destroyed! Imagine had he given up. But he wrote it again. Thank God!

And here, we read... **Jesus** is crowned with thorns. Hm?! And what is my complaint?

they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him / can you imagine? child's play... deadly child's play,

saying, Rejoice! King of the Jews!

30 And they spit on Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head / these soldiers had quite a demanding morning. So, let's hear it again.

They stripped Him... they fashioned a crown of thorns... and put it on His head... they bowed before Him... they mocked Him... they spit on Him... and they took the reed and hit Him on the head.

They were quite busy, weren't they?

Isaiah 52 says, Behold **My Servant**... this is **the Israel of God**, the One ruled by God; He is the wisdom of God... **and to a great height lifted up** -- in shame, in exultation. **Many are astonished**, they're astounded



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and horrified... **at His visage**, His appearance. The Good News version says, **He was so disfigured**, they had so abused Him that... **He hardly looked human**.

31 And after they mocked Him they took the robe off Him / so apparently, the party's over, and put His own bloodied raiment on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

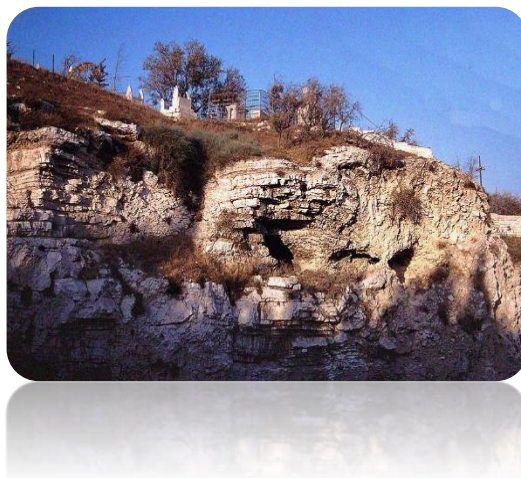
And it's interesting. John does **not** record the following event... though Matthew, Mark and Luke do. So, pay attention, right?

It was at this point in the trial... because things had **not** gone the way they had hoped, that John left to go get the women and bring them to the crucifixion. This detail was not part of John's experience.

32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name / from a community in Libya, North Africa: and they compelled Him to bear His cross.

And having been viciously brutalized, yet still needing to go the distance through the streets of old Jerusalem, one can only imagine Jesus marshaling all His strength. He had come to serve; not to be served!

Finally, releasing Simon -- what words of grace and peace did Jesus speak to him? We can only imagine; oh, to have been there; and at that right moment, Jesus being in-charge freed this stranger from North Africa to his safety and the safety of his sons... as He continued alone to the hill called Golgotha.



33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

34 They gave Him vinegar to drink mingled with gall / actually, cheap wine...Mark says, mingled with myrrh; so, it is definitely something bitter:

and when He tasted it, He would not drink / why? Well, it's not because He did not drink; He was called a wine bibber and a glutton. But NOW was not the time even for cheap wine as if He needed a little Band-Aid, right? Jesus bore the full weight of sin, of pain... of suffering. And knowing this is why He came... He wanted to remain fully alert as He completed... doing the Father's will.

35 And they crucified Him, and parted His garments, casting lots.

the 2nd half of this verse is not in the old Sinaiticus bible; **but who cares, it is in Psalm 22**. So, let's read it...

that it might be fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet, They divided My garments among them, and for My coat they cast lots.

36 And sitting down they watched Him there / Jesus became these soldiers' mid-day entertainment!

37 And set up over His head His accusation written / His cause and reason for being there, printed for all the public to see,

THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then there were two thieves crucified with Him, one on the right, the other on the left.

39 And those who passed by reviled Him, wagging their heads / starting with the religious people, the genius church leaders of the day... they were blaspheming Him, tut-tut-tut-tut! Gosh darn! You know people who say, **Gosh darn** are no different than people who say **God damn**; except in two areas: in their spiritual pride, and, in their stupidity, I don't curse; I don't use bad words... but that's what they're thinking sitting in judgment over another! You know the last word in Malachi, the last word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is: **cherem**; **curse**. It's **God damning**. It's **God cussing**! Right?

But back to these religious fools...

40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple / it's the KJV drama; it's like a lousy opera, **and buildest it in three days, save Thyself. If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

41 Likewise also the chief priests with the elders and scribes / Anass and his dumb-ass son-in-law and the Sanhedrin; the educated-elite. One comedy act after another...**mocking Him, and they said,**

42 He saved others; He can't save Himself? If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross NOW! and of course we will believe Him. Notice how they recklessly step over the line. They foolishly go too far as their mockery tries to drag the eternal God into their stupidity: Psalm 22 says, For He has not despised the affliction of the afflicted; **nor has HE hid His face** from Him; but when he cried unto Him, HE heard.

43 He trusted in God; let HIM deliver Him now, if HE will have Him: for He said, I am the Son of God / Ha-ha-ha-Ho-ho-ho! Caiaph-ass, you joker!

44 The thieves also, who were crucified with Him, cast the same insult at Him / they threw in their two-bits! And we read...

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness / starting around 12-noon; it seems GOD pulled the curtains because; with the absence of light... that good Wednesday afternoon; I bet it was creepy

over all the land until the ninth hour / until 3 o'clock.

The Man of Sorrows

JESUS it is YOU