

Week of July 21 - Mocked by All

Small Group Lesson 11

Connect

Have you ever felt contempt for a person (e.g. parent, teacher, boss, politician) but later come to respect them? If so, how did this change come about?

Verses - Matthew 27:27-44 (CSB - online edition)

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's residence and gathered the whole company around him. 28 They stripped him and dressed him in a scarlet robe. 29 They twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and placed a staff in his right hand. And they knelt down before him and mocked him: "Hail, king of the Jews! " 30 Then they spat on him, took the staff, and kept hitting him on the head. 31 After they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

32 As they were going out, they found a Cyrenian man named Simon. They forced him to carry his cross. 33 When they came to a place called 'Golgotha' (which means Place of the Skull), 34 they gave him wine mixed with gall to drink. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. 35 After crucifying him, they divided his clothes by casting lots. 36 Then they sat down and were guarding him there. 37 Above his head they put up the charge against him in writing: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

38 Then two criminals were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. 39 Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross! " 41 In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him and said, 42 "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God rescue him now — if he takes pleasure in him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.' " 44 In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him taunted him.

Study

1. Why did the governor's ***soldiers*** mock Jesus (vv 27-31)? What does their mockery teach us? About the soldiers? About Jesus? About ourselves?

2. John doesn't mention it, but according to all of the other gospels, a man named Simon, from Cyrene, was forced to carry Jesus' cross (v32) and Mark says he was the father of Alexander and Rufus. (Mark 15:21) Why is ***Simon*** important?

3. According to the gospels and church tradition, Jesus was crucified outside Jerusalem, along a well-traveled road, at a place called Golgotha, (v. 33).
    a. Why is this (the ***location***) important? Consider Hebrews 13:11-13.

4. The words written above Jesus' head (v. 37) are the only words written about Jesus and published during his lifetime. All four gospels report this writing, yet ***each reports these words a little differently***. Why? What does this teach us? (Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19-20)

Prayer

Please pray for one another as the Spirit guides you and, in addition, ask God…

- …to help us understand and apply today's Bible reading correctly,
- …to make us thankful for all of the blessings he has bestowed on us,
- …most especially our salvation through the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and
- …for helping us to grow spiritually as we constantly seek to imitate Christ.