

Text: Matthew 27:27-66

Section 1

27Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. 28They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. 31After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. 32As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross. (Matthew 27:27-32)

Not only was Jesus mercilessly beaten before being killed on our behalf, he was shamefully and mockingly treated. The author of Hebrews indicates that Christ knew that He would suffer not only death, but shame in His death. We sinners deserve no lesser punishment, and recounting the circumstances of His death should only further illustrate His abundant love for us.

1Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Not only was He shamed, He was rendered unclean, according to Jewish Law. For example, verse 30 states that He was *spat upon*. The following story in Numbers indicates that this treatment of Jesus was not only shameful, but reeking of uncleanness according to the Law.

9So the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed. 10But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous. 11Then Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account this sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned. 12"Oh, do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes from his mother's womb!" 13Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "O God, heal her, I pray!" 14But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again." 15So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again. (Numbers 12:9-15)

Jesus was not only shamed, not only killed, He was **despised**, treated as not even human, much less of God. Isaiah told us it would be so.

**3He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:3)**

Section 2

33And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, 34they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. (Matthew 27:33-34)

Golgotha, or Calvary, was essentially a garbage dump outside the city. As with the Jewish animal sacrifices that prefigured Jesus' all-sufficient sacrifice, He was taken **outside the gate** when He bore our sins and died on our behalf.

14"But the flesh of the bull and its hide and its refuse, you shall burn with fire outside the camp; it is a sin offering. (Exodus 29:14)

27"But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire. (Leviticus 16:27)

11For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. 12Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come. (Hebrews 13:11-14)

Jesus was offered wine to drink mixed with gall. Some translations and commentators refer to this as vinegar, and refer to it as a fulfillment of Psalm 69:21.

**21They also gave me gall for my food
And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (Psalm 69:21)**

This mixture was thought to hasten death by causing the drinker to “bleed out” more quickly. Jesus refused it, resolved to do nothing that would ease the suffering that He had to endure for us. Even in such tormenting circumstances His love for us and strength of will were unwavering.

11So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11)

17"For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18"No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again This commandment I received from My Father." (John 10:17-18)

Section 3

35And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. 36And sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. 37And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." (Matthew 27:35-37)

Psalm 22, which we read last week (and will read again in its entirety today) predicted that Jesus' clothing would be divided.

**18They divide my garments among them,
And for my clothing they cast lots. (Psalm 22:18)**

Section 4

38At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. 39And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads 40and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, 42"He saved others; He cannot save Himself He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. 43"HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE Him now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words. (Matthew 27:38-44)

Jesus was crucified among malefactors, as Isaiah predicted.

**12Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,
And He will divide the booty with the strong;
Because He poured out Himself to death,
And was numbered with the transgressors;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,
And interceded for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)**

Passersby mocked Him—Isaiah also predicted the spiteful treatment that Jesus would endure.

**3He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:3)**

John later summarized the reception Jesus received from the majority of people.

10He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11**He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. **12**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, **13**who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:10-13)

Section 5

*45*Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. *46*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" *47*And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." *48*Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. *49*But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." *50*And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. (Matthew 27:45-50)

Jesus' expressed His lament by quoting from Psalm 22. This is a further indication that this Psalm was indeed intended to describe Jesus' death centuries before it occurred. The detail with which the event is described is, as I mentioned last week, astounding.

1My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

2O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer;

And by night, but I have no rest.

3Yet You are holy,

O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4In You our fathers trusted;

They trusted and You delivered them.

5To You they cried out and were delivered;

In You they trusted and were not disappointed.

6But I am a worm and not a man,

A reproach of men and despised by the people.

7All who see me sneer at me;

They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,

8"Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him;

Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him."

9Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb;

You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts.

10Upon You I was cast from birth;

You have been my God from my mother's womb.

11Be not far from me, for trouble is near;

For there is none to help.

12Many bulls have surrounded me;

Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

13They open wide their mouth at me,

As a ravening and a roaring lion.

14I am poured out like water,

And all my bones are out of joint;

My heart is like wax;

It is melted within me.

15My strength is dried up like a potsherd,

And my tongue cleaves to my jaws;

And You lay me in the dust of death.

16For dogs have surrounded me;

A band of evildoers has encompassed me;

They pierced my hands and my feet.

17I can count all my bones.

They look, they stare at me;

18They divide my garments among them,

And for my clothing they cast lots.

19But You, O LORD, be not far off;

O You my help, hasten to my assistance.

20Deliver my soul from the sword,

My only life from the power of the dog.

21Save me from the lion's mouth;

From the horns of the wild oxen You answer me.

- 22**I will tell of Your name to my brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.
- 23**You who fear the LORD, praise Him;
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,
And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.
- 24**For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;
Nor has He hidden His face from him;
But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.
- 25**From You comes my praise in the great assembly;
I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.
- 26**The afflicted will eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD
Let your heart live forever!
- 27**All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,
And all the families of the nations will worship before You.
- 28**For the kingdom is the LORD'S
And He rules over the nations.
- 29**All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship,
All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him,
Even he who cannot keep his soul alive.
- 30**Posterity will serve Him;
It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation.
- 31**They will come and will declare His righteousness
To a people who will be born, that He has performed it. (Psalm 22:1-31)

Our Lord *yielded up His Spirit*. It wasn't wrested away from Him, and He didn't die unwillingly. When His task was completed, He died as an act of His own will. Referring again to John 10"

17"For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. **18**"No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again This commandment I received from My Father." (John 10:17-18)

Section 6

*51*And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. *52*The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; *53*and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. *54*Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" *55*Many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee while ministering to Him. *56*Among them was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. (Matthew 27:51-56)

The veil, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple, was torn. Through Jesus' death, the way to the throne of God was opened to all that repent and believe. The author of Hebrews described in detail the change that took place when Jesus entered into the Heavenly Tabernacle with His own blood, offered in sacrifice on our behalf.

1Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary. **2**For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. **3**Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, **4**having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; **5**and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail. **6**Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, **7**but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. **8**The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, **9**which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, **10**since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation. **11**But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; **12**and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. **13**For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, **14**how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **15**For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption

of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. 16For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. 17For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. 18Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. 19For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU." 21And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. 22And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. 23Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. 26Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 28so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. (Hebrews 9:1-28)

Next, Matthew reports that 52*The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.* It is fruitless to squabble over the details surrounding this event—we have few. I will note two things, however. First, the *saints* are the ones that were raised, not an indiscriminate collection of people. Jesus Himself said that those that believe in Him, the *saints* of God, will not taste final death.

25Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world." (John 11:25-27)

Second, these *saints* appeared to many, yet we don't see a report of a great revival. Jesus warned that if obstinate sinners will not repent at the preaching of the Word, they will not repent even if witnessed to by one risen from the dead.

19"Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. 20"And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. 22"Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23"In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. 24"And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' 25"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' 27"And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house--28for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29"But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30"But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31"But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'" (Luke 16:19-31)

Section 7

57When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave. (Matthew 27:57-61)

The wealthy Joseph of Arimathea gave Jesus his own new tomb. Even this seemingly minor detail fulfills an Old Testament prophecy.

9His grave was assigned with wicked men,
Yet He was with a rich man in His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. (Isaiah 53:9)

Section 8

62Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, 63and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' 64"Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." 65Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." 66And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone. (Matthew 27:62-66)

Jesus had indeed predicted His resurrection on several occasions. The priests and Pharisees clearly understood this, yet they did not believe.

18The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" 19Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken. (John 2:18-22)

38Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." 39But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; 40for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:38-40)

In fact, even though they understood the meaning of Jesus' prediction, they purposefully misinterpreted His words at His trial, and at the foot of the cross.

60They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, 61and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.'" (Matthew 26:60-61)

39And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads 40and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." (Matthew 27:39-40)

Section 9

Jesus died on our behalf. He willingly endured the punishment that we—each one of us—deserve. Without His death and resurrection, we have no hope of eternal life, and can only expect an eternity of torment in Hell. Instead, all that repent and believe, confessing Him as Lord and Savior, will enjoy everlasting life. This is the Good News that we must all believe and proclaim.

23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

21He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**5But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.**

**6All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him. (Isaiah 53:5-6)**

9that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Romans 10:9-13)