

A Further Mockery
Mark 15:16-20
Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. This portion of scripture begins with ominous undertones.
 - i. Christ is handed over to the Roman Soldiers for crucifixion.
 - ii. Christ has already been beat and mocked by the order of the:
 - 1. Sanhedrin
 - 2. Pilate
 - 3. And by now the reader anticipate what will happen next.
 - iii. Before God, both Jews and gentiles are guilty of vileness and wickedness.
- b. Jesus divinity is questioned by all as well,
 - i. He is called to prophesy
 - ii. To exercise power and get off the cross
 - iii. He is worshipped falsely, “Hail, the king of the Jews.”
 - iv. The crowds themselves will mock and wag their heads.
- c. The darkness of this passage cannot be underscored in the least, and yet within it, we see the light of salvation starting to dawn.

2. Verse 16 – The Roman Soldiers treatment of Jesus

- a. Christ is inevitably going to be maltreated by these Romans.
- b. The soldiers lead him away and at this point the inescapability of the cross is certain. However, the soldiers were not commanded to ridicule and mock and yet this occurs.
- c. We note that the soldiers call the “whole battalion.”
 - i. The Greek word—speira—is a greek military term for the latin word—cohors.
 - 1. This is one tenth of a Roman legion, or six hundred soldiers.
 - ii. Here we ask, why so many men.
 - 1. To Mock and ridicule
 - 2. Evil spreads – mob mentality.

3. Verses 17-18 – Derision

- a. Verse 17 – In abject cruelty, the soldiers clothed Jesus with a purple robe.

- i. Purple, the most expensive and prestigious of ancient dyes, symbolized royalty.
 - ii. In this they mock the Messiah's claim of being the royal king of Israel.
 - b. They also crown him with a crown of thorns.
 - i. The crown, normally made of gold leaf, signified royalty or military valor.
 - ii. In this, they mock the Messiah's claim of royalty and the conquering king to bring Israel back to prominence.
 - iii. The crowning of Jesus physically and symbolically causes great pain and agony as these thorn bore into his skull.
 - c. This is what man does to God's gift. This is the very nature of man.
 - i. **Romans 3:10-18** as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (11) no one understands; no one seeks for God. (12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (13) "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." (14) "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." (15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; (16) in their paths are ruin and misery, (17) and the way of peace they have not known." (18) "There is no fear of God before their eyes."
 - ii. We must draw certain unescapable, unfavorable conclusions from our time on this planet.
 - 1. Although we have done some good, we are guilty of much more harm.
 - d. Verse 18 – They began to salute him
 - i. This is a parody of Caesar's salute, "Ave Caesar, victor, imperator."
 - ii. This salute first mocks Christ but also mocks the Jewish nation.
 - iii. Irony: However, in their mockery, they address Jesus by his true title. One day however—
 - 1. **Philippians 2:10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 - 2. We remember Joseph's brother and here these soldiers
- 4. Verses 19-20 – Further Mockery
 - a. Verse 19 – The possession of power carries with it the inevitable temptation to its misuse. The empowerment of the soldiers and the impairment of Jesus incite the soldiers to proceed from mockery to violence.

- i. Striking
 - ii. Spitting
 - iii. Kneeling
 - iv. These soldiers have no idea what they have done in the eternal scheme of things.
 - v. Everyone that rejects the claims of Jesus is guilty of this type of behavior—
 - 1. **Matthew 12:30** Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.
 - b. Verse 20 – when finished
 - i. They lead him away to crucifixion
 - ii. None of the soldier's actions were warranted, nor did they speak of compassion. Jesus had already been beat, scourged, and was on his way to being crucified.
 - iii. Again we see the evil of men.
5. Benediction –
- a. **Isaiah 50:6-7** I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. (7) But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.