

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

The theme of Matthew is “Christ the King”. “The King of the Jews” is a Messianic title and was the issue from Christ’s birth. No sooner was He born than Herod saw this new born “King of the Jews” as a threat and sought to have Him killed (Matt. 2). Fast forward now to the Passion of the King in Matthew 26-27 and once again Jesus being “The King of the Jews” is the key issue.

Jesus experienced 2 sets of trials, that being religious trials before the religious leaders in Israel and secular trials before the Roman leaders; namely Pilate and Herod with Pilate being the principal one.

Pilate wanted to let Jesus go but the Jewish religious leaders were relentless in demanding that Jesus be crucified. They really put the pressure on Pilate claiming that if he let Jesus go then he was no friend of Caesar (Jn. 19:12).

Finally, Pilate capitulated to this pressure and delivered Jesus to be crucified knowing full well that Jesus was an innocent man. And this is where we pick the narrative up – at Matthew 27:27.

Matthew 27:27–44 (NKJV)

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

The soldiers in view were evidently the personal guards of Pilate. The Praetorium is thought to have been a place like a courtyard or a courthouse.

Some think it may have been a part of the old Herodian palace but most think this took place at the Castle of Antonia which was Pilate's official headquarters. Here we see the whole garrison of soldiers gathered around to abuse Jesus.

The word "garrison" (Gk. *speira*) is also translated as "cohort" or "battalion". A "speira" was one tenth of a legion meaning a full garrison numbered 600 soldiers, but many think that perhaps the "whole garrison" on-site here represented only a fraction of the total group. Guesses range from 120 all the way to 600 soldiers being involved. Certainly, many of Pilate's personal soldiers took part in this abuse.

28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

Matthew says this was a "scarlet" (or reddish) robe while Mark and John say it was purple (cf. Mk. 15:17, 20; Jn. 19:2, 5).

"Scarlet" (Kokkinos) can mean "red," and the "purple" (porphurous) of Mark 15:17 and John 19:2 and can describe a color ranging from rose to deep purple. – **Ed Glasscock**

It seems it was some sort of blend of reddish purple.

Slide # 2

Since scarlet is associated with sin (Isa. 1:18), I like to think that the robe pictures my sins being placed on Jesus so that God's robe of righteousness might be placed on me (2 Cor. 5:21).

– **William MacDonald**

29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

The thorns in this region may well have been two to three inches long. With these thorns they made a mock crown and placed it on His head.

Little did the soldiers know how suitable was the crown of thorns. Thorns are the symbol of the curse (Genesis 3:17-18) and Jesus bore the curse for us so that the curse might be removed, including the curse on the world of nature (Romans 8:19-22). – **John Phillips**

They placed a stick-like reed in His right hand as a mock scepter. And then in ridicule, they bowed the knee before Him saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

This is what John MacArthur has called “The Comedy of Calvary”.

When you think of Calvary you think of its horrors, its cruelties, its agonies. You do not think of it as a comedy nor should you. I don’t think of it as a comedy. But the people who participated in it when it happened turned it into a comedy. For them, Calvary was a joke.

– **John MacArthur**

30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

Spitting on someone showed utter contempt. So they had a mock scarlet robe; a mock crown of thorns; a mock reed scepter, a mock kiss of homage in the form of spitting. He really looked like some KING didn’t He? This was a total mockery!

Sadly, they had no idea that this one they showed such cruel contempt for truly one day will be revealed to be the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:16).

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1 Corinthians 2:8 (NKJV)

8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

And they took the reed and struck Him on the head. This would be like taking a broom handle and smacking Him on top of the crown of thorns with 2-3 inch thorns which would go deep into His skull. Unbelievably inhumane and cruel!

And the amazing thing is that Jesus just took it submitting Himself to this unjust treatment in subjection to the will of the Father.

Slide # 4

1 Peter 2:23 (NKJV)

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; **when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

People have wondered how Matthew knew what went on since he certainly was not there with these Roman soldiers. The best guess is that one of these soldiers at some point became converted and shared his story with the early Christians. Perhaps even the centurion guard who watched Jesus die was a part of this garrison. When this centurion observed Jesus die and the earthquake that followed he then confessed, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Mt. 27:54). Perhaps it was this guard who shared this background information, but we just don't know.

As they led Jesus away to be crucified He gave this last parting public message to the Jews...

Slide # 5

Luke 23:27-31 (NKJV)

27 And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him.

28 But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but **weep for yourselves and for your children.**

29 For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!'

30 Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" '

31 For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"

Jesus in effect was saying that terrible times were ahead for them. If the Romans had done this to a totally innocent person, what might they be expected to do to the guilty nation of Israel? He was undoubtedly referring to A.D. 70 when the Romans would destroy the Jewish temple and according to Josephus kill 1.1 million Jews in the process. The nation of Israel even to this day has never fully recovered. They still have no temple, no sacrifices, no priesthood, and no peace.

The fall-out of rejecting Jesus as their Messiah has been long and difficult and the worst is yet to come – until finally, they will come to repentance and faith in Jesus in the coming Tribulation Period.

32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

John 19:17 would indicate that Jesus bore His cross for part of the way as the victim was evidently required to carry the cross beam. However, evidently, the beatings and abuse took their toll on Him to where He couldn't go any further. So the soldiers compelled a bystander named Simon from Cyrene to step in and bear His cross for Him.

Cyrene was located 800 miles from Jerusalem along the Mediterranean coast in what is known today as Libya.

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Simon was evidently in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Apparently, there was a large number of Cyrenan Jews who lived in Jerusalem because they had a large synagogue there that was associated with them (Acts 6:9). Also, we note that on the Day of Pentecost, their dialect is listed in relation to the “tongues” phenomenon as seen in Acts 2:10.

Mark in his gospel referred to Simon as though the people would recognize him as the “father of Alexander and Rufus” suggesting that they were well known Christians in the early Christian community (cf. Rom. 16:13).

It seems likely that this humiliating experience resulted in Simon’s conversion as well as the conversion of his family. – **Warren Wiersbe**

33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,

The word “Golgotha” is an Aramaic word which means “skull” and has as its Latin counterpart the word “calvaria” from which we get the English word “Calvary”. This place was evidently located on a hillside alongside a busy road just outside the city (cf. Mt. 27:39).

We don’t know for sure why this place was called Golgotha – that is the place of the Skull. Some think it was because of the shape of the hill; others think it was because this place was identified with unclaimed corpses that were left to decay on crosses.

Two places have been suggested as the possible location of Golgotha. One is called “Gordon’s Calvary” because the hillside resembles the form of a skull.

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But by far most scholars believe the most likely location is near what is now called “The Church of the Holy Sepulcher” which is located in the Old City’s northwest quarter.

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Slide # 9

Leave it to mankind to totally make gaudy this holy site.

It is a good thing we don't actually have the original manuscripts of the Bible because if we did people would make over them in an idolatrous manner instead of properly worshipping the God they reveal.

34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

Jesus at this point would have been desperately thirsty (Jn. 19:28-29) and so for whatever reason they offered Him this mixture of sour wine and gall. The word "gall" means "bitter".

Mark says it was "myrrh" (Mk. 15:23). Many think this was in essence a further form of mockery.

Offering the wine appeared on the surface as an act of kindness, but He was mercilessly taunted since it was undrinkable.

– *The Moody Commentary*

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Psalm 69:21 (NKJV)

21 They also gave me **gall** for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Metaphorically, David was saying those who hated him served him up "bitterness" to drink, but this was then prophetically fulfilled in Christ's experience.

This too was in fulfillment of prophecy.

Slide # 11

John 19:28–29 (NKJV)

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, **that the Scripture might be fulfilled**, said, “I thirst!”

29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”

Amazingly almost no details are given concerning the nature of what was involved in the crucifixion itself. However, those living at this time didn't need to have it described as it was all too painfully obvious. Matthew simply mentions “***Then they crucified Him***” and then puts the emphasis on the activity surrounding the cross.

But crucifixions were gruesome. Rome perfected an agonizing death penalty that maximized drawn-out pain and misery and made an example out of all who would dare mess with Rome.

Crucifixion was widely believed to be the worst form of execution, due to excruciating pain and public shame. Hanging suspended by one's arms eventually caused great difficulty in breathing, which could be alleviated only by pushing up with one's feet to take the weight off the arms. But that motion itself would cause severe pain in the feet, arms, legs, and back, causing the exhausted victim to slump down again, only to be nearly unable to breathe once more. Eventually, the victim would succumb to suffocation. – ***ESV Study Bible***

Crucifixion was so bad that a Roman citizen could not be crucified except by a direct order from Caesar. It was reserved for the worst of criminals. Roman citizens so dreaded the idea of crucifixion that they refused to say the word “cross” in polite company. It truly was horrific.

Slide # 12

Isaiah 52:14 (ESV)

14 As many were astonished at you— **his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance**, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

We sing the old song “Were You There?”

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 (Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble)
 Tremble
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Commonly the Romans crucified people without any clothes on. The goal was to humiliate them as much as possible. So the soldiers took Christ's garments and cast lots for them. Although the line about fulfilling prophecy is not in the older manuscripts here in Matthew 27:35 it is unquestionably stated in John 19.

Slide # 13

Psalm 22:18 (NKJV)

18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

John 19:24 (NKJV)

24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," **that the Scripture might be fulfilled** which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

So many details surrounding the cross are grounded in the prophetic Scriptures. A popular booklet is titled, "33 prophecies fulfilled in one day". Amazing! There is nothing like this anywhere else in the history of the world. Christianity building on Judaism is uniquely a prophetic faith among all the religions of the world.

36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

This was the "death watch". It was the soldier's job to make sure no one tried to rescue someone nailed to a cross. Once they were dead it didn't matter, but until then they kept watch.

37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS

Over the top of the cross Rome would put the CHARGE giving the reason why this person was being crucified. The placard over Christ's cross read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS".

This statement was totally accurate but nobody got it because they didn't understand the truth that as the Messiah He has two comings. The first time He came to die as God's sacrificial Lamb for the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29). The next time He is coming as KING OF KINGS to reign supreme!

This statement that Jesus is King of the Jews is recorded in all 4 gospels.

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The full statement was, “This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”. All the accounts contain the phrase, “The King of the Jews” which was the essence of the charge. It was written in 3 languages – namely in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin as seen in John 19:20.

This statement was insulting to the Jewish religious leaders and so they requested to change it from reading “The King of the Jews” to “He said, I am the King of the Jews.” But Pilate refused to change it saying, “What I have written, I have written.” (John 19:20-22).

The irony is that it spoke the TRUTH and did so in all the major languages in use at the time.

In one sense, this title proved to be the first “Gospel Tract” ever written. – **Warren Wiersbe**

38 Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

The word “robbers” can also mean “insurrectionists” or “revolutionaries” which was a capital offense. This is the same word used in reference to Barabbas in John 18:40 (cf. Mk. 15:7). Robbery did not require the death penalty but insurrection did.

This fits the prophetic description of Isa. 53:12.

Slide # 15**Isaiah 53:12 (NKJV)**

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And **He was numbered with the transgressors**, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads
40 and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

To blaspheme means to speak irreverently. As they blasphemed they were wagging their heads in contempt and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself.”

Again, they totally misunderstood. Jesus never said He would destroy the Jewish temple of Jerusalem and build it in three days, but rather in John 2:19 when He said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” He was speaking of His physical body they would destroy and then He would raise it up on the third day. Jesus often made much of the third day and even His enemies knew it (cf. Mt. 26:61).

Slide # 16**Matthew 27:62–64 (NKJV)**

62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

63 saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘**After three days I will rise.**’

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

Jesus could have said to these mockers, “Just wait three days – weren’t you listening?” But not getting it, they may have reasoned that since He can’t even save Himself from the cross, it is clear that His claim to be able to rebuild the temple in 3 days is clearly false making Him a false teacher.

They further taunted Him saying, “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” “If you are the Son of God” is exactly what Satan said in tempting Jesus in Matthew 4:3 and verse 6.

The wicked, mindless, heartless, and fickle crowd had changed in a few days from acclaiming Jesus as the Messiah to condemning Him as a blasphemer. Many people today are like them. They may have been raised in the church, heard the truths of the gospel many times, and know that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.

They may have been baptized, made a profession of faith, and attended church regularly for a while. But because Jesus does not fulfill their worldly, selfish expectations they lose interest in the things of God. They may be quite willing to have the church attack evils in society but are quite unwilling to be confronted with their own sin and need for repentance and forgiveness.

In effect, they mock and sneer at Jesus as they turn their backs on His truth, His righteousness, and His lordship. The world is full of passers-by who once praised Jesus but now ridicule Him.

– *John MacArthur*

The book of Hebrews warns about this kind of apostasy....

Slide # 17

Hebrews 6:4–6 (NKJV)

4 For it is impossible for those who were **once enlightened**, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they **crucify again for themselves the Son of God**, and put Him to an open shame.

Slide # 18

Hebrews 10:26–29 (NKJV)

26 For if we **sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much **worse punishment**, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has **trampled the Son of God underfoot**, counted **the blood** of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace**?

41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,

42 “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

All three categories (namely the chief priests, scribes, and elders) representing the Sanhedrin (the supreme court in Israel) were there mocking Christ. Mocking is the sense of “making fun of” or “ridiculing” Him.

Note they did not deny that He had delivered others. This is evidently an oblique reference to Christ’s healing and delivery ministry. But while acknowledging that reality they disparagingly say but “Himself He cannot save.”

And then as if reasoning amongst themselves they were saying, “If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.”

Unbelief always wants to set its own terms and for unbelief there is never enough evidence. Jesus could have said, “I will do one better than come off the cross, I will raise Myself up from the dead in three days” – which in effect is what He had previously said and they knew it.

43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

It is amazing how much they knew about the claims of Christ. They knew in His servant role that He trusted in the Father. They knew of His claim to have a special relationship with God the Father as the Son of God – in effect claiming to be of the very same nature as God.

And so they reasoned, “If indeed He is in this kind of relationship with God “let Him deliver Him now”. Their thinking is that the cross verified that indeed God was not with Him and indeed that He was cursed of God. After all that is what death on a cross signified as seen in Deut. 21:22-23.

Little did these religious leaders realize that in effect they were mouthing and fulfilling the Messianic prophecy of Psalm 22:8.

Slide # 19

Psalm 22:8 (NKJV)

8 “He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”

Indeed, Jesus did entrust Himself to the Father, but what they failed to realize is that commitment was not in order to be saved from the cross but rather to fulfill the will of the Father in fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures.

Ironically they mocked Jesus for Who He truly was and is.

Slide # 20

- They mocked Jesus as a Savior.
- They mocked Jesus as the Son of God.
- They mocked Jesus as the King of Israel.
- They mocked Jesus’ trust in God.

- One day all will BOW before Him and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:10-11).

And we should note this. That Jesus trusted the Father to raise Him from the dead. This was His specific prayer request which was answered.

Slide # 21**Psalm 22:21 (NKJV)**

21 **Save Me** from the lion’s mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! [*Prayer from the cross.*] **You have answered Me.** [*In the resurrection*].

Hebrews 5:7 (NKJV)

7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears **to Him who was able to save Him from death**, and **was heard** because of His godly fear,

Sometimes God delivers on this side of the grave and sometimes He answers in the resurrection. And in the end, it’s all good. In our humanness we tend to think about answered prayer only in regard to this life – but sometimes God answers in a grander way on the other side. Sometimes we pray for healing – but it doesn’t come in this life – but rather will be realized in the resurrection. It will be answered – only a little differently than we tend to think in our humanness.

44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

We often talk about the one thief who was repentant, but this brings out that initially, they BOTH were casting insults at Christ. They both were blaspheming and mocking Christ like all the others mentioned in this context.

But it is never too late until it is too late. You never know when the seemingly hardest of sinners may come to repentance. With all this mocking activity swirling around the cross – the one thief was listening about His being a Savior, the Son of God, the King of Israel. Inadvertently, the gospel was shared with him in a most unlikely manner.

He would have heard Christ say, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Lk. 23:34) and so forth. Suddenly, he threw in with Christ.

Slide # 22

Luke 23:42–43 (NKJV)

42 Then he said to Jesus, “**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**”

43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**”

Note Jesus did not say He would be with Him in heaven that very day, but rather with Him in Paradise. In the OT prior to the resurrection of Christ the OT saints when they died went to a paradise section of Hades called “Abraham’s Bosom”.

In Luke 16 Jesus told the true story about a beggar named Lazarus, a rich man, and Abraham. This was not a parable because parables never use the names of people. This was a historical reality. The two men Lazarus and the rich man died and they both went to Hades – which was the realm of departed spirits.

Hades is the NT Greek word that corresponds to the OT Hebrew word Sheol. Prior to the resurrection of Christ all the dead went to Sheol/Hades. Hades had two compartments as seen in Luke 16. One section was the paradise section of which Abraham was the attendant, hence it was called Abraham’s bosom where the saints resided in close fellowship with him.

The other section was a torment section which is where the lost went and still go when they die. Between the paradise section and the torment section there was a great gulf fixed so that they could not pass from one section to the other. But they could communicate.

Slide # 23

Luke 16:26 (NKJV)

26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

When Jesus died His soul when to the paradise section of sheol/hades.

Slide # 24

Psalms 16:10 (NKJV)

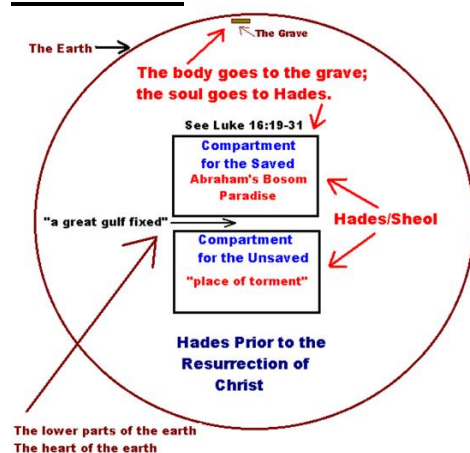
10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:31 (NKJV)

31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

This was the Paradise that Christ went to when He died and where the converted thief joined Him on that very day. After His resurrection, I believe Christ emptied out the paradise section of Hades and established a new meeting place for the souls of departed saints in heaven. We know in the NT it now says for believers to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8) and we know the Lord is presently in heaven (1 Thess. 1:10).

Slide # 25



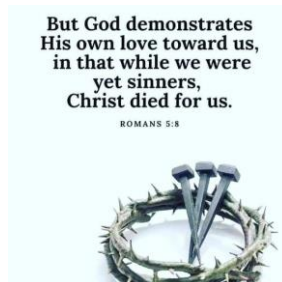
The great emphasis today in our study at the foot of the cross was that of many different groups and individuals mocking, taunting, sneering, ridiculing, and degrading the claims of Jesus. What they all failed to realize is that this King of the Jews Who is the Son of God was also destined to be the suffering Servant also prophesied in the OT Scriptures.

As such He was to be despised and rejected by men (Isa. 53:3); He was to be the “stone which the builders rejected” (Ps. 118:22); He was to be in the position of trouble where “there is none to help” (Ps. 22:11). In all this Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies about Messiah! Yes, He is the divine King of Israel, but He is also the Suffering Servant upon Whom the LORD laid the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:6).

Jesus was so abused, despised, and mistreated because they mocked His claims, but when you understand the whole counsel of God it was precisely because of He was as Messiah-Lord that He received such treatment. It was all in fulfillment of prophecy that aligned perfectly with what Jesus had to do to be the Savior of the world.

And WHY did He do it? Well, it was the greatest demonstration of LOVE the world had ever or will ever see.

Slide # 26



For the believer, Christ wore a robe of mocking so that we might wear a robe of righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21); Christ wore a crown of thorns so that we might wear a crown of glory (1 Pt. 5:4); Christ died a death of humiliation all alone so that we might be with Him forever.

This is all GRACE – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15)