

Matthew 27:27-31

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole *Roman* cohort around Him. ²⁸ And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹ And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ And they spat on Him, and took the reed and *began* to beat Him on the head. ³¹ And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify *Him*.

We learn here that Jesus is brought into the Praetorium, or the headquarters of the Roman military governor, Pilate. There the entire Roman cohort or military body of about 500-600 men, all gather around Him. They then take our Savior and strip Him before all that are present. They put a scarlet robe on Him, because He claimed to be the King of the Jews. They weave a crown of thorns, with the thorns often over 3-4" long. They put the crown on His head, and a reed in His hand, and then they knelt before Him, and mocked Him. These men then took the reed and beat those thorns into the head of Christ. They pulled out His beard, and then they scourged Him. Scourging is when men, gifted in the art of professional torture, take what was called a "cat of nine tails," and literally rip the flesh off of the prisoner. It was against the law for any man to be scourged and crucified, because even the Romans as brutal and vicious a people as they were, believed that no man should suffer both scourging and death by hanging on a tree. Yet, Jesus Christ did endure all of this and more for you and me! Was Jesus surprised with what was happening to Him, absolutely not! He foretold all of this to His disciples in **Matthew 20:17-19**. Jesus also travailed over this on the night before it happened at the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus willingly and knowingly suffered the greatest payment of sin for all of mankind. But don't be deceived into believing that the physical was the worst part. The Roman cohort, as well as many of the people including the leaders of the synagogue mocked the King of Kings. According to the 1828 Noah Webster Dictionary, mockery is "vain imitation or effort; counterfeit appearance; false show." Is this not what the majority of churches and people who call themselves Christians in America do today? We mock the life, death and full payment for our sins, every time we willingly and knowingly sin against God, our fellow man, and ourselves. We mock Jesus by believing that we can pray a simple prayer after someone, and then go out and live like hell. We mock Jesus with the unforgiveness and withheld love that we rob from those around us. We mock Jesus with setting homosexuals into leadership within our churches, advocating the slaughter of our unborn, and living in every form of vile immorality. We mock Jesus when we choose these blatant sins, and then go to church on Sunday, and then believe that we are set for another week. We mock Jesus every time we tear down another pastor, church or Christian that we don't like. We mock Him by gossiping about them, instead of praying for them. We mock Christ by refusing to attend a local church, by not tithing, by selecting which verses or commandments that we want to obey. Don't be deceived into believing that you can take hold of the priceless gift of salvation, to only then mock Him by staying in your unrepentive sins. Never forget **Galatians 6:7, Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap**. Friends, Jesus will have the last word on those who mock Him!!