

## **Mark 15:16-20 – Jesus humiliated by Pilate's soldiers**

When Pilate decided to put Jesus to death (to keep the Jews happy), he handed him over to his soldiers. They mocked and humiliated him. The sufferings of Jesus are at the centre of the message of the Bible (Acts 3:18, Luke 24:46-48). They are at the heart of the good news for us. Therefore we should study these words carefully!

### **1. Why was Jesus humiliated?**

Jesus chose to be abused and humiliated. It was voluntary. Some of us were born in low, difficult positions in the world. But Jesus was eternally God the Son. He only entered the world as a man only because of his free choice. He suffered only because he was willing to suffer. He could have called an army of angels at any time to release him (Matthew 26:52-53), but he did not. Why not? Firstly, because of his love for sinners. Sin deserves punishment. God is a holy God who will uphold his holy law against sinners. Jesus' sufferings show us what our sin deserves. He willingly paid the price for his people. He faced sufferings in this world so that they could receive glory in heaven. Do you want to know how much Jesus loves his people? Look at his sufferings! Secondly, Jesus suffered because of his love and obedience to his Father. It was God's plan to save sinners through his Son, and Jesus was obedient to this plan. He always pleased his Father (John 8:29). How much do you love God?

### **2. How was Jesus humiliated?**

Jesus was treated like a criminal. His clothes were taken. He was spat on. He was beaten. He was used to bring cruel pleasure to the mocking soldiers. If we are treated badly because of following God, then Jesus was first! He was mocked: they made fun of his claim to be the King of the Jews. In doing this they laughed at him, they laughed at the Jews, and they laughed at the true God who had chosen the Jews and had sent his Son to them. Many people mock God each day in their spiritual blindness and ignorance, as they run into their sins. We should pity them. They often do not know what they are doing! We should try to show them. All these things were done to Jesus by a large number (v16). Without the Holy Spirit, nobody can see the truth about Jesus. We should praise him if he has shown us!

### **3. What are the results – what should we do?**

Because Jesus suffered for our sins, we can be forgiven them. We can enter heaven because he paid the price. But in this world we must also remember, “the servant is not above his master” (Matthew 10:24). If Jesus was humiliated for his obedience to God, we should expect the same. There is only one path to heaven which he has made, and it is a path of suffering. Yet we can know that his kingdom will triumph on earth. The Father will not ignore his sufferings. He obeyed the Father and the Father has raised him up and given him everything.