

PASSION READING: Condemned & Crucified.

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 27:27 – 31 – (NIV) (Mark 15:15-20; John 19:1-6)

Vs. 27 - Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium (Court House / Governor's Hall / Judgment Hall) and gathered the whole company (cohort – 600 men) of soldiers around him.

Vs. 28 -They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

Vs. 29 - and then **twisted together a crown** of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "**Hail, king of the Jews!**" they said.

Vs. 30 – They **spit** on HIM and took the staff and **struck** HIM on the head again and again.

Vs. 31 – After they had mocked HIM, they took off the robe and put HIS own clothes on HIM.

GREETING: Jesus says: Come to ME, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:28-29)

As we continue with the Sermon Series for this Lent Season entitled "*The Hands of the Passion*", we are making our way to the cross as we see Jesus Who spreads out *His hands* upon the Cross of Calvary (John 19:17-18) for the sin of the World (Heb. 10:10, I Tim. 2:5-6, I John 2:1-2), and then shows those same nail pierced hands three days later to His disciples behind the locked doors as Jesus declared to them "*Peace be With You.*" (John 20:19-27)

This evening we see the hands of the soldiers.

There is a website that one can go to which defines bullying as: "Unwanted, aggressive behavior"

The website that I was looking at defines three different types of bullying.

1. Verbal - 2. Social - 3. Physical

The Verbal and Physical are easy enough to recognize.

Social is more fully described as:

"Sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes:

- Leaving someone out on purpose
- Telling others not to be friends with someone
- Spreading rumors about someone
- Embarrassing someone in public

The website also states that: "The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both those who are bullied and those who carry out the bullying, may have serious, lasting problems."

When someone bullies us or when we see someone being bullied: how do we respond?

Do we retaliate? Do we withdraw? Do we run away? Do we get angry? Do we cry?

Do we look for an opportunity to get back at that person or persons who are bullying us?

Or do we leave matters alone and try to carry on with our life?

As we look at our text for this evening, we see not only bullying, but we see assault and battery as our Lord Jesus is on trial in a Kangaroo court / mock trial.

Vs. 27 - Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium (Court House / Governor's Hall / Judgment Hall) and gathered the whole company - σπειραν (cohort = 600 men) of soldiers around him.

Vs. 28 - They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, - (This was done in Mockery)
[From the Gospel of Mark 15:15 & John 19:1, we learn that Jesus was flogged.]

To flog / Scourge from the Greek Word as given in Mark 15:15 - φραγελλοω -

To flog / Scourge from the Greek Word as given in John 19:1 - μαστιζω -

In some cases, the scourge could have bits of bone or metal attached to the end of the whip.

Vs. 29 - and then **twisted together a crown** of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "**Hail, king of the Jews!**" they said.

Vs. 30 - They **spit** on HIM and took the staff and **struck** HIM on the head again and again.

Vs. 31 - After they had mocked HIM, they took off the robe and put HIS own clothes on HIM.

As this event is happening, how did Jesus respond?

As true God, Jesus could have destroyed the entire cohort of soldiers with the breath of His mouth, BUT instead Jesus endured this suffering.

The **Prophet Isaiah**, who carried out his ministry about 700 B.C. prophesied the suffering of the Messiah when he wrote:

Isa. 50:6 - "I offered My back to those who beat ME, MY cheeks to those who pulled out MY beard; I did not hide MY face from mocking and spitting."

Isa. 53:3 - "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised and we esteemed Him not."

Isa. 53:7 - "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet HE did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so HE did not open His mouth."

Why did Jesus endure this suffering?

Jesus did it all as part of His suffering for the sin of the world.

This was all part of the cup of suffering which Jesus endured for the sin of the world.

Jesus was bullied in our place and was brutalized for all people of all time, including for us.

Jesus was bullied so that sin & Satan no longer are able to bully us (unfortunately we sometimes allow sin and Satan to bully us).

But as God says through the Apostle Paul in **Romans 6:14** – “**Sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law but under grace.**”

Romans 6:6 – “**For we know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves to sin**”

Romans 6:18 – “**You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.**”

Jesus who said to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39 & Luke 6:29), turned His back to receive the flogging by the soldiers.

Jesus, Who is God, humbled Himself for you and your salvation so that you can look forward to heaven, regardless of how much bullying you may need to endure in this

life. AMEN

THEME: Hands of Betrayal – (The Soldiers)