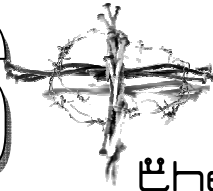


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HE CHOSE THE NAILS

Lesson 02—

The Mocking of the Crown

-Introduction

*There were 3 things the soldiers did...the first and the last were under orders

1. scourged/beat Him
3. led Him to be crucified

*What happened in between came out of the evil hearts of the soldiers.

I. What Happened Between the Beating and the Cross (**Matthew 27:27-31**)

- A. A CROWN OF THORNS was made from a nearby thorn bush and put on Jesus' head
-not sure how big thorns were, but probably not over an inch and closely spaced
- B. After the thorns are placed on Jesus' head, the soldiers BEAT it with a stick
-would cause extreme electric shock-like pains across the face
-the pain could be so great, that this happening after being beaten could cause death
- C. They SPIT in his face, making fun of Him
*earlier, they blindfolded Him and began to hit Him asking if He could prophecy who did it
- D. They even gave Him a purple robe and a stick. They bowed to Him to mock Him as a KING
- E. When paraded through the town to the cross, there was a sign also mocking Him as a KING

II. The Application

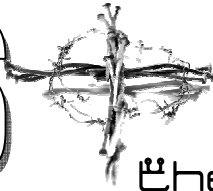
- A. Jesus knows what it is like to be MADE FUN OF
 1. spitting on someone doesn't hurt physically, it hurts emotionally
 2. the ones who He came to save disgraced Him as a person
- B. Jesus gave the example of STANDING for what you BELIEVE
 1. They made fun of Him for what He stood for
 2. He could have told them what they wanted to hear, but he took the pain (**Isaiah 50:6**)
- C. Sometimes we can be like the soldiers (**Matthew 25:40**)
 1. They made themselves look big by making someone else look small
 2. Making someone feel bad made them feel good

Take it Home:

Read Isaiah 53:1-9 (prophecies) about all Jesus went through for us
Read Romans 12:9-21 about how to treat others



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Lesson 02—

The Mocking of the Crown

Small Group Discussion

Talk About It: Has anyone ever spit on you? Describe how it felt emotionally.

Talk About It: How does it feel to know that Jesus has gone through the same emotional hurt that I have gone through?

Leaders- pass out thorn branches (be careful...they are SHARP!)

Discuss: Each of you have been given some thorns. While they aren't as sharp or as large as what was on Jesus' head, He wanted to show us that nothing would stop Him for standing for truth.

Ask Yourself: Can you think of a time when you were faced with standing up for what you believe. Did you stand tall like Christ? If someone perfectly innocent stood tall for you, how much more should you be willing to stand for Him?

*“Stop and think about this. Not once did Christ use His supernatural powers for personal comfort. With one word He could've transformed the hard earth into a soft bed, but He didn't. With a wave of his hand, He could've boomeranged the spit of his accusers back into their faces, but He didn't. With an arch of His brow, He could've paralyzed the hand of the soldier as he braided the crown of thorns. But He didn't.”
“The best part of all is, He did it just for You.”¹*

Discuss: Maybe you have actually found yourself to be like the soldiers. You seek to find someone wrong in everyone else. By putting others down, you lift yourself up.

Ask Yourself: Are there areas where you need to humble yourself like Christ instead of putting others down?

Take it Home:

Read Isaiah 53:1-9 (prophecies) about all Jesus went through for us

Read Romans 12:9-21 about how to treat others

¹Lucado, M. (2001, c2000). *He chose the nails : What God did to win your heart* (electronic ed.) (24). Nashville: Word Publishing.