

Behold The Man.

Mark 15:16-20.

Sunday morning, March 15, 2009

I. Then the soldiers led Him away... Vs. 16.

- A. From the time of His arrest on Thursday night until the time of His crucifixion Friday morning at 9.00am, the Lord Jesus allowed Himself to be “led,” to be “led away,” to be “sent,” and to be “brought.”
- B. These are all passive terms showing us that the Lord Jesus, following His struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane, fully and voluntarily gave Himself over into the hands of sinful men for our redemption.
- C. They show us that he was fully possessed of a passive grace, allowing Himself to be offered up as the true sacrifice for sin.
- D. That He did so purposely is evident from His words in John 10:17,18 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”
- E. In doing so He fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy in Isaiah 53:7, “He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep is silent before its shearers, so He opened not His mouth.”
- F. A composite picture from the four gospels shows Jesus being “led, led away, sent and brought:”
 1. Following His arrest to Annas, John 18:13.
 2. Then to Caiaphas, Matt 26:57 Mark 14:53 Luke 22:54 John 18:24.
 3. To Pilate, Mark 15:1 Matt. 27:2 Mark 15:1 Luke 23:1 John 18:28.
 4. To Herod, Luke 23:7.
 5. Back again to Pilate, Luke 23:11.
 6. Inside the Praetorium, Matt. 27:27 Mark 15:16 John 18:33.
 7. Outside before the crowds, John 19:5.
 8. Back inside the Praetorium, (Pilate’s headquarters) John 19:9.
 9. Once more before the crowds, John 19:13.
 10. To Calvary, Matt. 27:31 and Mark 15:20 Luke 23:26 John 19:17.

II. The soldiers’ mocking. Vs. 17-19.

The soldiers, having heard the Jews’ accusation that Jesus made Himself the King of the Jews, give in to their sadistic impulses and mock Him as a king

A. They clothed Him with purple.

Matthew calls it scarlet. No doubt it was a faded soldiers mantle whose color had been scarlet; which had faded, and now for the purpose of mocking “The King of the Jews” was to represent the royal color purple.

Application:

Do we not see here how the Lord Jesus was taking our place?

He becomes what we already were; He takes our fallen place.

We were created gloriously; crowned with glory and honor

“What is man that You are mindful of him... You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have

put all things under His feet. All sheep and oxen--even the beast of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, that pass through the paths of the seas.” Psalm 8:4-8. In the fall the excellency of our royal purple has become a faded soldier’s mantle. This, our fallen ness, the Lord Jesus here takes willingly upon Himself.

B. They twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head.

1. We do not know which species of plant or tree was used; Palestine abounds with a variety of thorny plants, bushes and trees.
2. More significantly, the thorns were the emblem of the curse under which the whole creation was put because of man’s fall into sin. Gen 3:17,18.
3. Man, who was crowned with glory and honor, after the fall has to labor under the curse; daily as it were wearing this crown of thorns.

Application:

The shame; the ugliness; the gloom and the darkness of our fall, the Lord Jesus here willingly takes on His own head as He takes our place under the curse. All of this is represented under the emblem of the crown of thorns.

Do you recognize the crown of thorns in your own life?

Do you know that the Lord Jesus came to wear that crown so that you once more might be crowned with glory and honor?

C. They put a reed in His right hand Matt. 27:29

1. A king must have a scepter. A symbol of his authority, his law and his rule. So they put a reed in His right hand. A bamboo stick in all likelihood.
2. They bowed the knee before Him, mocking Him; they spat on Him, and taking the reed out of His hand they struck Him on the head with it.

Application:

The authority with which man was invested of God has become a matter of mockery to him after the fall. What authority does he have left? What does he do with that authority other than abuse it? Do not the powers of darkness daily mock man; spitting on him as it were; taking the law of God which was once man’s scepter, and beating man over the head with it, ever driving the thorns of darkness and despair deeper into his skull? All this the Lord Jesus takes willingly on Himself to deliver us from the curse of the law. See what an unwavering and steadfast purpose the Lord Jesus was possessed of in all this.

III. Behold the man. John 19:5

- A. The soldiers finished their threefold mockery; The robe; the crown and the scepter. Unwillingly and unknowingly they had dressed the Lord Jesus in the emblems of fallen and lost humanity; a faded robe; a crown of thorns, and a common stick for a scepter.
- B. Now Pilate comes and unwillingly and unknowingly presents Him as such to the world, saying “Behold the Man.”
- C. Here comes the second Man; the second Adam; He takes the place of the first man, Adam in all his fallenness. Behold the Man!

Application:

It is in beholding the Man, and in grasping the significance of these events, these visible images, that our redemption lies. Have you beheld Him?