

Christ's Sorrow in the Garden

Mat 26:37- 38 (see also vss 39, 42, 44)

Introduction

It is very easy to look at Christ and see his Deity. We look at him and remember how he fed thousands with a few fish and few loaves of bread. We look at him and remember how he caused the lame to walk. We look at him and we remember how he caused the blind to see. We look at him and remember how he raised the dead. We look at him and remember how shone bright when he was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. WE remember how God said, “ this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him.” We remember how he had no sin. and remember how he was lifted up to heaven in the sight of all apostles. However sometimes we forget that he was also human just as we are. He hungered as we do, he thirsted like we do, he slept like we do, Hebrews 4:15 even says that he was tempted in all points as we are. He felt happiness like we do, he felt anger like we do and he felt sorrow like we do. These verses that we just read speak of the sorrow that Jesus was carrying in his heart, so much so that his sweat was dropping off him like drops of blood. What was going on here ? For the new few minutes lets examine the some the reasons why he could have been feeling so sorrowful.

- I. The Physical Anguish – The amount of physical anguish that Jesus was going to go through in the next few hours would be excruciating. Until the movie “the Passion” came out, I had never seen the physicality of the death properly portrayed.
 - A. Mat 26:67 Says that he was beaten - Imagine being in a crowd of people in almost mob like atmosphere where pretty much all the people there hated your guts. Imagine they hated your guts so much that they would make up lies to incriminate you. What kinds of hearts would people like this have (Give an example). Then this mob-like crowd has the opportunity to dispel some of their hatred to you physically.
 - B. Scourged 19:1 – One Scholar writes, “Flogging was a legal preliminary to every Roman execution, and only women and Roman senators or soldiers (except in cases of desertion) were exempt. The usual instrument was a short whip (flagellum) with

several single or braided leather thongs of variable lengths, in which small iron balls or sharp pieces of sheep bones were tied at intervals. Occasionally, staves also were used. For scourging, the man was stripped of his clothing, and his hands were tied to an upright post. The back, buttocks, and legs were flogged either by two soldiers (lictors) or by one who alternated positions. The severity of the scourging depended on the disposition of the lictors and was intended to weaken the victim to a state just short of collapse or death. After the scourging, the soldiers often taunted their victim.

At the Praetorium, Jesus was severely whipped. (Although the severity of the scourging is not discussed in the four gospel accounts, it is implied in one of the epistles [1Peter 2:24]. A detailed word study of the ancient Greek text for this verse indicates that the scourging of Jesus was particularly harsh.) It is not known whether the number of lashes was limited to 39, in accordance with Jewish law. The Roman soldiers, amused that this weakened man had claimed to be a king, began to mock him by placing a robe on his shoulders, a crown of thorns on his head, and a wooden staff as a scepter in his right hand. Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff.

Moreover, when the soldiers tore the robe from Jesus' back, they probably reopened the scourging wounds.

The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state. Moreover, hematomas had rendered his skin particularly tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus' physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical”.

- C. Crown of Thorns Jn 19:2 – After the agonizing beating and scourging that he had already taken, the Roman soldiers add insult to injury by placing a crown of thorns on his head. This blatant mockery was done to belittle the “supposed” kingship of Jesus. However, what they did not know was that his kingship was and is real and that that he was dying for all sinners (including the Roman guards).

D. Crucified - People sometimes speak of some the practices that we have in this country to convict criminals as barbaric. Some say the electric chair is inhumane, the gas chamber is barbaric, lethal injection is not an act to be done by civilized society. In other countries some go as far as to literally cut off a finger when you steal or castrate you if you rape some one. Some have public hangings. In Singapore someone was caned for spray painting on things. I'm not here to tell you if these thing are right or wrong if you are right or wrong for feeling the way you do, but what I am here to tell you is that Jesus went thru much worse. After being humiliated and whipped and beaten (for doing absolutely nothing wrong) he then supposed to carry his own instrument of death to his own crucifixion. One scholar writes, "First he had to walk with the bar. "From the beating, Jesus walked on a path, now known as the Via Dolorosa or the "way of suffering", to be crucified at Golgotha. The total distance has been estimated at 650 yards. (Edwards). A narrow street of stone, it was probably surrounded by markets in Jesus' time. He was led through the crowded streets carrying the crossbar of the cross (called a patibulum) across His shoulders. The crossbar probably weighed between 80 to 110 pounds." These excerpts are taken from Wikipedia to describe the process of crucifixion, "For the sake of expediency, the victim was likely affixed to the cross by ropes, nails, or some combination of the two. In popular depictions of crucifixion (possibly derived from a literal reading of the translated description in the [Gospel of John](#), of Jesus' wounds being 'in the hands'), the victim is shown supported only by nails driven straight through the feet and the palms of the hands, which is possible, if there was a foot-rest to relieve the weight; on their own, the hands could not support the full body weight.

Death could come in hours or even days, depending on exact methods, the health of the crucified man and environmental circumstances. A theory attributed to [Pierre Barbet](#) holds that the typical cause of death was [asphyxiation](#). He conjectured that when the whole body weight was supported by the stretched arms, the victim would have severe difficulty exhaling, due to hyper-expansion of the lungs. The victim would therefore have to draw himself up by his arms, or have his feet supported by tying or by a wood block. Indeed, Roman executioners were said to break the victim's legs, after he had hung for some time, in order to hasten

his death. Once deprived of support and unable to lift himself, the victim would die within a few minutes. If death did not come from asphyxiation, it could result from a number of other causes, including physical [shock](#) caused by the [scourging](#) that preceded the crucifixion, and the nailing itself, [dehydration](#) and exhaustion.”

As we prepare our minds to partake of the Lord’s Supper, let us keep these things in mind. Let us remember about the beating that Jesus took for us. Let us remember about the scourging that Jesus took for us. Let remember about the slaps to the face that he took for us. Let us remember about the spit that spewed in his face for us. Let us remember about the torture he endured on the cross for us. Let us remember about the love he showed for us.