



**The DAILY JESUS NEWS #319**  
**Friday... Day of Agony and Atonement**

**Jesus Bears His Cross to Golgotha**

**Jesus is Beaten and Mocked By a Company of Roman Soldiers**  
**MT 27.27-30 (Parallel Text: MK 15.16-19)**

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27 <sup>MT</sup>Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus <sup>M</sup>and led him away into the palace (that is, <sup>MT</sup>the Praetorium) and gathered <sup>M</sup>together <sup>MT</sup>the whole company of soldiers around him.

28 They stripped him and put a <sup>M</sup>purple-<sup>MT</sup>scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him <sup>M</sup>and began to call out to him, <sup>MT</sup>mocking him.

"Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>M</sup>Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Praetorium: Pilate's Palace in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	E. Friday: Day of Agony and Atonement
	Jesus Bears His Cross to Golgotha
Title	Jesus is Beaten and Mocked by a Company of Roman Soldiers

In the previous reading we saw Pilate's sentence of death by crucifixion for Jesus. Today's reading began the official process of crucifixion. This grisly mode of execution was used by the Romans for rebels against imperial authority, and the worst of criminals. Crucifixion was a public form of punishment intended to strike fear into the enemies of Rome. No one wanted to die like that. It was the most excruciating form of physical, psychological, and social torture that the Romans could devise.

In the Jewish mind, crucifixion added the worst kind of punishment of all; being eternally cursed by God, which was synonymous with damnation in hell. As Paul wrote: **"Christ redeemed us from the Law, having become a curse for us--for it stands written, 'CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS UPON A TREE.'"** (Gal 3:14; Duet. 21:23)

The desire for Jesus to suffer the most horrible kind of death, and be under an eternal curse from God was why the Jewish elders had pushed so hard for Jesus to be crucified.

The first step in crucifixion was for the Roman soldiers who were responsible for carrying out the sentence to take charge of the prisoner. As torture and humiliation was the goal, the soldiers would begin a crucifixion with a physical beating and psychological abuse.

In Jesus' case, this was his third beating and mocking session. The first had been conducted by the Sanhedrin and temple guards at the conclusion of the Jewish trial. The second had been done earlier by a cluster of soldiers as ordered by Pilate, including a scourging, in an attempt to appease the mob and save Jesus' life without crucifixion (DJN #312). That ruse had failed.

For Jesus' third beating the "company" of soldiers was assembled. A company was typically 10% of a legion, which was made up about 5,000 men. So about 500 soldiers gathered in the praetorium to make sport of Jesus.

A more highly intimidating, fearful setting cannot be imagined. The soldiers stripped him, then put the purple robe back on him, along with the crown of thorns in a mock enthronement ceremony. They came, one by one, to kneel before him, shouting "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they would spit upon him and beat his head with the royal staff. We do not know how many soldiers did this, but the language describes an ongoing process, so 30 to 50 soldiers would be a conservative guess.

The company also knelt and blasphemed against the Lord as a group by offering their mocking worship. By the time they were finished he was covered in spit and was probably close to unconscious from the blows to his head. It was savage treatment.

In about an hour Jesus would be praying over and over again on the cross, **"Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."** The Lord of Glory loved even those who abused him like this, and those who hated him enough to wrongfully bring this punishment upon him.

The silence of Jesus in this hurricane of abuse continues to eloquently reveal his glory like nothing else.

#### APPLICATION:

The soldiers gave Jesus their mocking worship.

Those of us who believe that he endured this suffering in our place, and even for those who were torturing him, must give him our sincere worship in response. Nothing less is worthy of him.

*How will you worship Jesus today in a way that is appropriate to what he endured for your sake?*