

April 13, 2025

From Majesty to Mocking

Matthew 5:10; 27:27-31

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, a time of celebration and sorrow. Jesus rode into Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd, but in just a few days, those who praised him called for his crucifixion. The dramatic contrast between Jesus' triumphal entry and his brutal treatment exposes the fickle nature of humanity and the profound truth of who Jesus is.

Matthew 27:27-31 gives a heartbreaking account of how Jesus was treated by the Roman soldiers. After being sentenced to crucifixion, the soldiers gathered around Jesus. They stripped him, put a red military cloak on him, and twisted together a crown of thorns, pressing it onto his head. Then, in cruel mockery, they placed a reed in his hand like a scepter and bowed before him, jeering, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:29). This was not just an insult; it was a violent parody of a royal coronation. The soldiers then spat on him, struck him repeatedly, and continued to humiliate him. Their actions went beyond the sentence of crucifixion. They took pleasure in tormenting and mocking Jesus. This abuse was meant to degrade him, but in reality, it revealed the very truth they sought to deny: Jesus is the King.

Unlike earthly kings who seek power through force, Jesus' kingship was one of humility and sacrifice. He did not retaliate against his tormentors. Instead, he bore their mockery, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy: "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). The soldiers thought they were proving Jesus to be weak. Instead, their actions confirmed his strength. True kingship and majesty are not found in domination but in self-giving love. Jesus, the King of kings, showed his authority not by crushing his enemies but by bearing their cruelty and overcoming it through the power of resurrection.

Human beings have always tended to reject and ridicule what they do not understand. We still see mockery and persecution of those who stand for righteousness. The question we must ask ourselves is, Are we among those who mock Jesus, perhaps not with our words, but with our actions? Or are we willing to stand with him, even when it is costly?

Jesus' suffering reveals the depths of human sin and the greatness of God's love. As we remember his mocking and humiliation, may we also remember that his kingdom is not of this world, but it is for all who will receive him as their true King.

1. In what ways am I tempted to turn away from Christ?
2. How can I reflect the same spirit Jesus had in the face of rejection or opposition?
3. What areas of my life need to be brought under the reign of the King who wore a crown of thorns?