

Intro

~ Mockery - Mockery or mocking is the act of insulting or making light of a person or other thing, sometimes merely by taunting, but often by making a caricature, purporting to engage in imitation in a way that highlights unflattering characteristics. Mockery can be done in a lighthearted and gentle way, but can also be cruel and hateful, such that it "conjures images of corrosion, deliberate degradation, even subversion; thus, 'to laugh at in contempt, to make sport of' (OED)".

~ We've all been mocked at some point. Maybe we weren't good at sports, fitting in with a group, Perhaps it was in school, perhaps it was in a church. This kind of a thing happens in a church youth groups, it happens to Christians for their belief in Christ.

~ Mockery isn't a good thing. Mockery is done out of pride, self-promotion, hate, legalism, jealousy and envy.

~ Many of God's people in the bible and throughout history have been mocked

~ Mockery is seen all throughout the bible, Cain mocked his brother Abel and killed him. Joseph's brothers were jealous and mocked him and sold him as a slave to traders, Pharaoh mocked the Moses and the God of Israel, Goliath mocked the God of Israel and the Israelite army and the young teenager defeated Goliath a slingshot and a stone, God's prophets in the OT were mocked by, Jesus was mocked the religious leaders in the gospels, The apostles were mocked in the book of Acts again by the religious leaders

~ Perhaps, we can all recall a time when we've been mocked and ridiculed for our faith

~ The mocking of Jesus Christ is unfortunate because he healed people, cast out demons, fed people, taught people, forgave sins, defended the weak people, he was a friend to people so much that he was ridiculed for it Yet....he was mocked nonetheless

~ Christ has already been mocked by the Sanhedrin in the religious trials and now were going to see Christ mocked more

Outline

Christ is mocked by the gambling (v24)

Christ is mocked by the inscription (v27) fulfills Is 53:12

Christ is mocked by the by-passers (v29-30)

Christ is mocked by the religious leaders (v31,32)

Christ is mocked by the criminals (v32)

1 Christ is mocked by the gambling (v24)

~ Clothing is something that protects us, covers us and gives us a certain appearance

~ They didn't think he would need his clothes anymore

~ The soldiers were a party of four along with a centurion (Acts 12:4)

~ In 19:23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

~ All of Jesus' clothes, with the possible exception of a loincloth, were removed before he was nailed to the cross.

~ Cast lots = to throw bits of wood or dice

~ A common way was to place lots in a helmet and to shake them until one flew out; another way was to reach into the helmet and to draw out a lot

~ The dice doubtless were ready at hand, and one of their helmets would serve to throw them.

~ What each should take – who and what? Who should take what

~ A victim's personal belongings became the property of the execution squad

~ The clothes of the crucified fell to the soldiers who guarded them, as part of their perquisites. The outer garment, or tallith, they divided into fourth parts, probably loosening the seams. The inner garment, like the robes of the priests, was without seam, woven from the top throughout (Joh_19:23), of linen or perhaps of wool. It would have been destroyed by rending

~ The soldiers were fulfilling unknowingly the prophecy of David, uttered over a thousand years before and recorded in Psa_22:18. A criminal's garments were recognized as part of the perquisites of the soldiers officiating at a crucifixion.

Ps 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture

~ If Christ was treated with respect and like a king they wouldn't have thought so little of him so as to gamble for his clothes

~ Joseph had a coat of many colors given to him by Jacob. When Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit they took his coat from him (Gen 37:23). They took his coat and dipped it in the blood of an animal and showed it to Jacob (Gen 37:31-33)

2 Christ is mocked by the inscription (v27) fulfills Is 53:12

~ When the cross was prepared the criminal had himself to carry it to the place of execution. He was placed in the middle of a hollow square of four soldiers. In front marched a soldier carrying a board stating the crime of which the prisoner was guilty. The board was afterwards affixed to the cross. They took not the shortest but the longest way to the place of execution. They followed every possible street and lane so that as many as possible should see and take warning.

~ The superscription was written in three languages, which explains the slight variations in the wording.

~ The inscription or His accusation... THE KING OF THE JEWS." It was customary to fasten placards above the heads of those crucified to indicate the nature of their offense. Pilate ironically designated Jesus the King of the Jews, assigning Him the crime of rebellion against the Roman authority.

~ John records the inscription says, "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews."

~ This would state where he's from and what his accusation is

~ In John 19:5 Pilate also said "Behold the man"

think about how this accusation fulfills

~ Ps 2:6 I have set my king upon a holy hill

~ Zech 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass

~ Matt 2:2 The wise men came from the east and asked, "Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him?"

Matt 27:37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Lk 23:37,38 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. 38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

3 Christ is mocked by the by-passers (v29-30)

~ Passersby hurled insults at Him (lit., "kept slandering Him").

~ And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

~ Mar 15:30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

~ The crucifixion was in an open and public place because part of the Roman torture was to use it as a teaching tool to teach others not to commit crime

~ It's believed the cross was only a few feet off the ground. That would make it easy for them to reach up and offer a drink of the myrrh drink to the victim

~ They offered Jesus drugged wine and he would not drink it. A company of pious and merciful women in Jerusalem came to every crucifixion and gave the criminals a drink of drugged wine to ease the terrible pain. They offered this to Jesus--and he refused it.

~ At this scene at the cross there's loved ones, friends, perhaps people who are indifferent to the victims of the crucifixion, there are those who must know something about Jesus but have no special interest in him. They are the by-passers. Then, there are those who despise Jesus

~ Those who passed by had an opinion on Jesus. These are Jews from the city, for they repeat the very thing that was said in the night session of the Sanhedrin by the last two false witnesses about destroying the Sanctuary, etc. (14:57-59). People who came from a distance could not have used words such as these in blaspheming Jesus, these could have been said only by people who were from the city, who had heard some of the details of the night trial before the Sanhedrin. Lenski New Testament Commentary

~ Railed = blaspheme (blasphemeo) to vilify; specifically to speak impiously: - (speak) blaspheme (-er, -mously, -my), defame, rail on, revile, speak evil

~ Wagged their heads = when we get home our dog is excited to see us so they wag their tails. Here the bypassers wag their heads in disbelief as if to say they don't agree with him. The shaking of their heads has been regarded as a gesture of indignation or of malignant joy or of derision and mockery or of all these together. But this is putting rather much into a simple gesture. To shake the head means to say no. Each situation modifies this no
Lenski New Testament Commentary - Lenski New Testament Commentary – The Interpretation of St. Mark's Gospel.

~ God was here mocked in his own Son (Richard Lenski)

~ Mark shows us the cause of their mockery. Jesus said in Jn 2:19 that if they were to destroy this temple (his body) that he would raise it up in three days. Some heard this said and it was used against Jesus at the religious trials he had with the Sanhedrin and now it's used in the context of the cross

~ "thou that destroyest," etc. These people draw a deduction when they are uttering their blasphemous cries. If Jesus can do a thing that is so tremendous as to replace the great Sanctuary (Holy and Holy of Holies) in three days he ought to be able to save himself from his present predicament. But it is evident that he cannot do this. So he was the one that talked so big and is now able to do nothing at all even for himself! When the verb precedes the aorist participle, the two are nearly always coincident as they are here: "save thyself by coming down."

Lenski New Testament Commentary - Lenski New Testament Commentary – The Interpretation of St. Mark's Gospel.

~ They blaspheme and shake their heads in disapproval and mockery because of what Jesus said prior

~ Ps 22:7,8 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him

~ Ps 22:12,13 Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. 13 They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

Practical

~ The words Jesus said in Jn 2:19 were on point. They landed on a target of truth. Yet here the people are missing the point

~ We can identify with this to a certain degree. We've had our words turned against us at some point when we meant no harm yet they were turned against us for the purpose of harm mockery just as Jesus experienced here

~ The problem with the natural man and us who desire to be spiritual is that we miss the meaning of what God has said. We see only the surface when the Lord wants to take us deeper.

~ The problems in superficial Christianity is we want the blessings but not the blesser. Sometimes the blesser wants to give us trials in order to really bless us but we want only the good things that come from his hand. Job said to his wife, "should we receive only good and not receive bad things also?"

~ We do this with the hard sayings of Jesus like we find in the sermon on the mount

~ By wanting the blessing and not the blesser we miss out on the deeper blessings of being a Christian

~ It's like I have my dad's trucks which are really nice and a great blessing but I would much rather have dad still alive. I would rather have him than his blessings. Likewise I should desire God for who He is and not for what he can do for me. That's consumerism Christianity

~ They wanted Jesus to prove his words but imagine if Jesus had proven himself. There would be no salvation

~ One of the reasons Jesus had to die as a sacrificial victim is that in the OT the sacrificial animal wasn't released from the altar. It stayed there and died. When it died the animal burnt and the smell of that animal was a sweet smelling savior to the Father that pleased the father.

~ So much of our understanding of Jesus' death comes to a fuller meaning but understanding the OT sacrificial system

~ So.....we go deep with Jesus into the scriptures and in his leading to the hard things and desire the hidden meanings of his word rather than only having a surface understanding of his word

~ This mockery was the worse for the grave misunderstanding of the real words of Jesus on which it rested (John 2:19). What Jesus had said was that by their rejection of God's Messiah

Lenski New Testament Commentary - Lenski New Testament Commentary – The Interpretation of St. Mark's Gospel.

~ In a sense, this is really the first mention of the cross. We preached the 3 times when Christ predicted his own death in Mark 8,9, and 10. But, this here really is the first mention because What Christ is saying that you will destroy this temple by crucifixion and I will raise from the dead in three days

~ A deduction is again involved, there are many false deductions made

~ What their saying is if Christ doesn't do what we think he should do then all of Christ's earthly ministry was vain

4 Christ is mocked by the religious leaders (v31,32)

Likewise - Don't miss this simple little word. This tells us the scribes and Pharisees are doing the same exact thing
~ Mark mentions the scribes and Pharisees but the bigger picture of all four gospel accounts tell us who was present..chief priests, scribes and elders

~ The phrase, He saved others. . . but he can't save himself, was meant to be sarcastic and cruel. Jesus did save others. He raised Lazarus from the dead. But in their mockery there was truth. Jesus could not save himself, and save us, at the same time. He chose to save us. Praise God!

Holman New Testament Commentary - Holman New Testament Commentary – Mark.

~ Mocking (1702) to taunt, jeer at , to play with, trifle

~ V31,32 tells us the verbal form their mockery took, "He saved others; himself he cannot save.

~ Mar 15:32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.

~ They're still looking for a sign

~ Notice that mockery, displeasure, ridicule, disrespect also manifests itself in the verbal. It did here with the by-passers and the Sanhedrin

~ May we be careful how we use our words and not for mockery of God's people

~ Their chief contribution to the mockery is: "Others he did save, himself he cannot save!" Lenski New Testament Commentary - Lenski New Testament Commentary – The Interpretation of St. Mark's Gospel.

If we formed a hierarchy of culpability in this progression

1 Religious leaders

2 the religious crowd who wanted Barabbas released and Jesus crucified

3 Pilate

4 the roman soldiers

5 the criminals

*** You have to wonder if any of the religious crowd or criminals really knew who Jesus was? Had witnessed his ministry personally?

~ The Religious leaders have gotten what they wanted, Jesus crucified but they wont stop here. They want the tomb guarded and they will persecute the early church

~ Imagine the sneer in their mockery

~ Lenski - These mockers know only power and that used, first of all, in self-interest. Of grace and mercy that care only for others at the complete expense of self they know nothing. So their mockery recoils only upon themselves. Lenski New Testament Commentary - Lenski New Testament Commentary – The Interpretation of St. Mark's Gospel.

5 Christ is mocked by the criminals (v32)

~ Matt 27:44 Matthew calls them thieves

~ Jesus was placed between two robbers when he was crucified. These men were probably insurrectionists (15:7), and they may have been involved with Barabbas.

~ V27 tells us he was crucified with two criminals and v32 tells us they were both reviling him

~ To all this mockery there is added another, that of the two robbers who were crucified with Jesus. Mark continues with the imperfect: "they continued to reproach him." Matthew adds "with the same thing." Both Mark and Matthew use the plural

~ While both at first joined in reproaching Jesus, before very long one of these robbers came to repentance, of which Luke has made the record.

~ Lk 23:39-43 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Conclusion

~ Christ is mocked by the gambling, the inscription, the by-passers, the religious leaders, the criminals

~ While we weren't present mocking at the cross it was our sin that put Christ on the cross to endure mocking

~ No one has every loved us so thoroughly as Christ and we can love him back