

3. Jesus Is Mocked and Beaten

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[0 : 00] Station 3. Jesus is mocked and beaten. Now that Jesus is a condemned criminal, he's fair game.

Pilate has Jesus scourged, which means whipped as punishment. Then Pilate hands Jesus over to his soldiers.

Before taking Jesus to his gruesome death, they decide to have a little fun to brighten up their day. In Mark 15, we read this.

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace and called together the whole company of soldiers.

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

And they began to call out to him, Hail, King of the Jews! Hail, King of the Jews! Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him.

[1 : 21] Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Touch and feel the various items you see before you. Feel the crown of thorns. If you feel comfortable with it, carefully try to put it on.

Hold up the scourge and feel the hooks that tear flesh. Imagine Jesus being whipped with it. Touch the staff and imagine him being beaten by it.

Put on the purple robe and consider how you look. It's supposed to be a sign of royalty, but Jesus is being physically assaulted and humiliated.

The shocking thing is that these soldiers are mere humans.

[2 : 37] Before them stands their creator, the one who made them, loves them, and gives them every breath they take, even as they mock and torture him.

How would you feel about a bunch of tiny ants doing this to you? But that's nothing compared to the humiliation that Jesus is willing to endure for our salvation.

As you fix your eyes upon these devices of torture and mockery, listen to how the prophet predicted Jesus' sufferings in Isaiah 53.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him and afflicted.

[3 : 40] But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Now please proceed to the next station. community school. Amen.

Thank you.