

24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

MARK 15:15-23

DRAWN INTO THE DIVINE DRAMA

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) 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!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. 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.

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

1. The suffering of Jesus is not a story to evoke PITY. It is in fact an event that calls for a RESPONSE. This drama suggests a variety of responses.

Some JOIN IN the ridicule and abuse of Jesus as a figure of contempt.

Some attempt to IGNORE the whole thing.

Some have LIFE CHANGING experiences through encounter with Jesus.

27. What makes the difference in how we respond to Jesus?

It's possible that I can't believe that God could love a FAILURE LIKE ME!

It's possible that I am **NOT WILLING TO ADMIT** any personal failings.

It's possible that in Jesus' suffering we **FACE** our human deficiencies and realize his suffering was because of his great love for us and thus we are drawn into this divine drama.