

Lenten Series: Sounds of the Passion—Lord of Life, Westfield, IN—Wed. 3/16/05

Theme: Sounds of a beating and blows

Matt. 27: 27-31 & 1 Peter 2: 18-25

Intro: Jesus endured the harsh treatment from others on our behalf so that we would not have to suffer what we deserved but also when we do suffer the persecution of others we might find in him the healing and deliverance

Ills.: Bullying—an Age-old problem

What is fair and what do we deserve

1. The inhumanity of mankind comes because of dark hatred in all of us
 1. Whether terrorist bombing and beheadings or Brian Nichols cold-hearted murder
 2. Whether road rage or the mean spirited taunting on the playground
 3. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3: 23*
2. Often we proclaim our innocence in midst of persecution brought it on by own sin
 1. *But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? 1 Peter 2: 20a*
 2. Home, work, school, neighbors, internationally
3. When we view the story of Jesus’ suffering, we see him taking a bullet for/instead of us
 1. **Read Matt. 27: 27-31**
 2. *Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Is 53:4a,5b*

When following Jesus, we suffer for goodness’ sake

4. Looking to Jesus for the strength to carry on
 1. *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2: 21-23*
 2. Within marriage or abusive parents; persecuted at work; shunned by neighbor
5. Looking to Jesus to find healing
 1. *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Pt 2: 24*
 2. Guilt over own part in a ruptured relationship
 3. Verbal, emotional, or mental wounds caused by another
6. Looking to Jesus to find deliverance
 1. **Ills.: Miraculously Delivered from Death and Shame**
 2. *For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1 Peter 2: 25*

Matthew 27:27-31

²⁷Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Bullying—An Age-old Problem

A recent study by researchers at **Wayne State University** in Detroit suggests that one in five U.S. workers has been bullied in the past year. Incidents ranged from being talked down to, yelled at, made scapegoats and ostracized. And as anyone who reads news accounts of workplace shootings knows, psychological violence sometimes turns into physical violence. **“Some People Make Life Difficult At Work,”** By Paul Clark, Staff Writer, Asheville Citizen-Times Sunday, June 18, 2000

The study of 558 students in a Midwestern middle school found that 80 percent said their behavior included physical aggression, social ridicule, teasing, name-calling and issuing threats within the previous 30 days *Study: Bullying rampant in U.S. middle schools* Reporter Lisa Price and Reuters contributed to this report. CNN Web .August 20, 1999 Web posted at: 10:16 p.m. EDT (0216 GMT

Miraculously Delivered from Death and Shame

Hawa Ahmed was a Muslim student in North Africa. One day, she read a Christian tract in her dormitory and decided to become a Christian. Her father was an Emir (Islamic ruler), so she expected to lose her inheritance because of her conversion. She was completely unprepared for what happened. When she told her family she had become a Christian and changed her name to Faith, her father exploded in rage. Her father and brothers stripped her naked and bound her to a chair fixed to a metal plate with which they wanted to electrocute her. Faith asked them to at least lay a Bible in her lap. Her father responded, "If you want to die together with your false religion, so be it." One of her brothers added, "That will show that your religion is powerless." Although they had bound her, she was able to touch a corner of the Bible. She felt a strange peace, as though someone were standing beside her. Her father and brothers pushed the plug into the socket—and nothing happened. They tried four times with various cables, but it was as though the electricity refused to flow. Finally her father, angry and frustrated, hit her and screamed, "You are no longer my daughter." Then he threw her into the street, naked. She ran through the streets, humiliated and in pain. People looked at her, curious rather than shocked. Shaking and tearful, she ran to a friend. Her friend let her in, clothed her, and gave her shelter. The next day, her friend asked neighbors what they had thought when they had seen Faith running naked through the streets. "What are you talking about?" they asked. "The girl had a wonderful white dress on. We asked ourselves why someone so beautifully clothed had to run through the streets." God had hidden her nakedness from their eyes, clothing her in a beautiful white dress. Today, Faith is a full-time evangelist with Every Home for Christ. **Citation: Guido Kuwas , *Global Revival News* (12-17-01); submitted by Owen Bourgaize, Guernsey, United Kingdom**