

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of Matthew's account of the earthly life of the Messiah, we have come to what would have appeared to be the end of Jesus' earthly ministry – His Death by Crucifixion. Fortunately, for us, we are looking backwards and we know that this is NOT a sorrowful ending but rather a crucial step in the Ultimate Victory!
- * As Jesus has reminded the disciples – and the leaders of the people – continually what was happening was not a random coincidence but rather the Purpose and Plan of God were coming to their fullest fruition at this moment of history.
- * Today's message is not just about suffering and death ... but even more so about faithfulness and victory!

INSTRUCTION**I. THE D _____ OF CHRIST**

A. He Was Mocked by the S _____ (v. 27-37)

B. He Was Mocked by the L _____ (v. 39-43; Psalm 22:6-8)

C. He Was Mocked by the R _____ (v. 38, 44)

II. THE A _____ OF CHRIST (v. 46; Psalm 22)

A. The P _____ of the Alienation (cf. Psalm 22:1)

B. The C _____ of the Alienation (cf. Psalm 22:3-6)

1. THE HOLINESS OF GOD

2. THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST (cf. Leviticus 1: 2-4; Leviticus 4; 2 Corinthians 5: 21; Hebrews 9: 11-12; 9: 22-28; 10: 11-14)

III. THE T _____ OF CHRIST (v. 46)

A. The C _____ of Victory (cf. John 19: 30)

B. The S _____ of Victory

1. THE T _____ OF THE V _____

2. THE Q _____ OF THE E _____

3. THE R _____ OF THE D _____

4. THE D _____ OF THE C _____

INTROSPECTION

- * How do you view the cross? Is it a defeat, or a means to a greater victory?
- * Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."
(Matthew 16:24-25)

Do you honestly believe this? Are you practicing it?
- * Which character in this account do you most resemble?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * What does "denying myself, and taking up my cross daily" look like?
- * How do we apply that concept as a church body?