

***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***  
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**SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)**

**TITLE: Program 52 – What Will You Do With Jesus?**

**TUESDAY**

**OPEN**

Are you suffering greatly, Beloved? Is it a suffering that you don't think that you can handle? You don't think that you can bear? Maybe it's a suffering of soul. Maybe it's a suffering from other people as they mock you and they scorn you and they deride you. Or maybe it's a physical suffering. Well the message today is right here from Jerusalem where Jesus suffered all those things. And He wants you to know that you can endure. He loves you. You can make it.

**PART ONE**

Once again I'm back here in Jerusalem. Remember now, Pilate had handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be scourged and to be crucified. When they finish scourging Him He is a bloody, bloody pulp. Flesh is hanging from His body in shreds. We know from other testimonies and other records that He was probably disemboweled. So you can see His bowels. He's

standing there. He has been brutally, brutally treated. He has now the torment to endure from the Roman soldiers. Listen to what it says, **“Then the soldiers...,”** verse 27, **“...of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. [And] they stripped Him and [they] put a scarlet robe on Him.”** (Matthew 27:27-28) Now they have taken this scarlet robe, which He got when He went to Herod. Remember Jesus in this process of His trial first goes to Pilate. (See Matthew 27:2) Pilate finds out that Jesus is a Galilean. Herod is in town because of the feast, I guess. And so Herod Antipas is in town. He’s up near the upper part of the city where the present day David’s Citadel is. That’s where his temple was. They take Jesus from Pilate up to Herod. Herod is amused by Jesus. He’s hoping to see some sort of a miracle. Jesus does nothing. He answers nothing. (See Matthew 27:12) And Herod takes and gives Him a robe. (See Mark 15:17) He puts a robe on Him because He’s the King of the Jews and he sends Him back to Pilate. Then the Roman soldiers begin to mock Jesus. Now when you go to the Praetorium what you can see carved in the marble there is a game. And they would play what they called the “King’s Game.” They would take their victims and they would make sport of them. After all, they were going to die. They were going to be put to death. They were going to be crucified. And so they would put this victim in the circle and they would pretend that he was a king. They would play this game. And this is what is happening now. And the other gospels add to this. But it says, **“They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His...hand; and they knelt down before Him and [they] mocked...saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’”** (Matthew 27:28-29) “Hail, King of the Jews!” And then they’d spit on Him. And then they’d say, “Prophecy. Tell us who spit on You.” So they’re mocking Him. Now understand His condition. We do not know exactly the order of the scourging. We know that Matthew says they scourged Him and after having

Jesus scourged he'd hand Him over to be crucified. But we know, we know that here He is a bloody mess. Here He is, now they have taken that purple robe, they have put it on His body. It acts as bandages. It's cloth. Serous fluid is coming out. Blood is coming out. It adheres to that purple robe. "Oh, He's a king. Look, He needs a crown. Get those thorns over there. Let's make Him a crown." Now that Praetorium could get pretty cold and so they would have little pots, little buckets, so to speak, and that's where they would put thorns. And then they would take that wood and they ignite it, and then they would have a place to warm their hands. So the thorns are there. Those thorns are like ten penny nails. And they wove that crown of thorns and then they put it on the head of Jesus. Now remember, His beard has been pulled out. Remember His face is bruised and swollen because they have slugged Him at the house of Caiaphas and this is just the next morning. Remember also that He has sweat great drops of blood. He is been, in agony. Now they take the crown of thorns and watch the blood come down over His head as He stands there. They put a reed in His hand. "Oh, He needs a scepter. He's a king." And they put the reed in His hand. And then they grab the reed out of His hand and they begin to beat Him on the head, mocking Him, mocking Him. He's standing there. He could call ten, twelve legions of angels. He could put a stop to it at any moment. And yet, you know why He's standing there, Beloved? He is standing there for you. He is standing there for me. He knows our name. He is omniscient. He knew us before the foundation of the world. (See Jeremiah 1:5, John 17:24, Revelation 17:8 or 13:8) And He knows that unless He dies, you and I will never ever live. We will only taste the second death, which is the Lake of Fire, because **"...The wages of sin is death, but the...gift of God is eternal life [through Jesus Christ] our Lord."** (Romans 6:23) So He is standing there enduring this for you. I don't want you to miss it. It says, **"...they knelt down before Him and [they] mocked Him, saying..."** and you want to mark it again, **"...Hail, King of the Jews!"** (Matthew 27:29) And that is rightly so. He is

not only King of the Jews, O Beloved, He is King of Kings and He's coming back again to reign. **"They spat on Him... [they] took the reed ... [they] began to beat Him on the head. [And] after they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off [of] Him...."** (Matthew 27:30-31) Now His body is bleeding and oozing all this serous fluid. They take the robe off of Him. It is like taking bandages that you have put on a burn patient and all of a sudden the pain is absolutely horrific, absolutely horrific. And so they pull that off and once again that coagulation is broken and He begins to bleed. And it says, **"...They took the scarlet robe off [of] Him and put His...garments back on Him...."** (Matthew 27:31) Remember now, they're going to take those garments off when He is crucified. They're going to cast lots for that garment. **"...And [they] led Him away to crucify Him. [And] as they were coming ..., they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross. And when they came to [the] place called Golgotha, which means [the] Place of a Skull."** (Matthew 27:31-33) A skull is right above a busy bus station in the Arab quarter, outside the Damascus gate. I want you to know Jesus was not crucified as the hymn says, "On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross." No, He was crucified along the highway. This is where the Romans would crucify their victims because they wanted that to be a testimony to the fact that you don't get away with anything when you're dealing with Rome. You will be crucified. You will be put to death in the most torturous way. And so right along the road, we believe, they kept the uprights. And so when Jesus carried the cross, traditionally we have a big cross on His back. But historically the uprights were in the ground and they just carried the crossbeam. He was so weak. He was so weak from all the blood that He had lost. He was wounded and **"...marred more than any man....,"** (Isaiah 52:14) by the time that they got through with Him. And I want you to see this. It's in Isaiah chapter 52. In Isaiah 52 verse 13 it says, **"Behold, My servant will [be] prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly**

exalted.” (Isaiah 52:13) Someday every knee’s going to bow. But it says, **“Just as many were astonished at you, My people, [Israel] so...,”** comparison, **“...His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men. Thus He will sprinkle many nations....”** (Isaiah 52:14-15) And He’s going to sprinkle them with His blood. In other words, when Jesus Christ was hung on that cross, people would look at Him and say, “Oh my God, what is that? What is that?” And they would say, “That’s Jesus.” “No. No. He doesn’t even look like a human being.” Because when Isaiah says, **“...[He] was marred more than any man...,”** (Isaiah 52:14) it means that He was unrecognizable as a human being. O Beloved, listen to me. There is no pain, no torture, nothing that they can do to your physical body than is greater than what Jesus Christ experienced and He experienced it for you. It says, **“...They came to [this] place called Golgotha... [and] they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots.”** And it says, **“And sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. And above His head they put ... the charge against Him which read, ‘This is Jesus...,’ ‘Yeshua,’ ‘...the King of the Jews.’”** (Matthew 27:33-37) Now when they said, **“...This is Jesus...,”** (Matthew 27:37) and they wrote **“Yeshua,”** that word means “God, our Savior.” This is God our Savior, the King of the Jews. Do you see the combination of the two things? This is the One who saves and this is the One who reigns. O Beloved, O Beloved, there’s more I want to tell you about this crucifixion and we’ll do it in just a minute. But just would you just say, “O God, open my eyes so that I might understand the great love with which You’ve loved me.”

## **PART TWO**

O Beloved, on this cloudy day in Jerusalem it is so appropriate for you to hear the message of the great love with which Jesus Christ has loved you. When they crucified their victim, what they did is they stripped them. They hung naked. Jesus was exposed to all those that were passing by. They took off His robe. Once again He is bleeding. Once again He is a bloody pulp. They lay Him on the ground, full of stones and full of dirt. And they spread His arms and they put it on those crossbeams and they take a nail and that nail comes right through the hand right at the base of the middle finger. You will find a hole. And I believe that when God created man He created man so that that hole there could hold Jesus Christ on that cross. They take that upright. They take that crossbeam and they put it in the upright. They nail. **“...This is ...the King of the Jews.” (Matthew 27:37)** Jesus is left dangling. He cannot breathe. His bones go out of joint, as Psalm 22 says. His bones twist out of joint. His heart moves out of its place. And He is in utter agony. So they take the knees and they bend the knees. They jack them up. They put one foot in front of the other and they drive a nail through the feet so that now He can go up, exhale, take in oxygen and this is the way He breathes, up and down against the bark of the wood on the tree. As we look at this I want you to know that He is the One that has given you breath of life and He is fighting for every single breath. Here He is being tortured. His heart is out of place. His bones are out of joint. He is a twisted mass of humanity. The words the other gospels tell us are very, very short because it is very hard to breathe. And what’s happening around Him? Well look at verse 38. **“At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days.... If You are the Son of God, come down [off] the cross.’” (Matthew 27:38-40)** They don’t understand that He had to be the Son of God and the Son of Man in order to die for their sins. It

says, **“In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, ‘He saved others; He can’t save Himself. He is the King of Israel....’ ”** He’s the King of Israel. (Matthew 27:41-42) Rightly they spoke. **“...Let Him ... come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”** (Matthew 27:42-43) There’s no comprehension at all of what they were doing with every sacrifice, [that the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin, so Jesus said, **“A body thou hast prepared for Me.”**] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 10:4-5) **“[And] the robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words. Now from the sixth hour darkness fell [on] all the land until the ninth hour.”** (Matthew 27:44-45) The sixth hour is noon. The ninth hour is three o’clock. And in Luke chapter 23 and I want us to look at it very quickly. In Luke chapter 23 in verse 44 and 45, in Luke 23:44 & 45 this is what we read. It says, **“[Now] it was about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, because the sun was obscured; [the sun was obscured]....”** (Luke 23:44-45) What were they doing? This was the Light of the world and we said we don’t want His light. **“[And they were trying to put out the Light of God and God was demonstrating that men prefer darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.]”** (PARAPHRASE, John 3:19) **“[And] about the ninth hour Jesus cried...with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’”** (Matthew 27:46) **“[Which means ‘My God, My God, My God the Father, My God the Spirit, why has Thou forsaken Me?’”]** (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 27:46) It was at that point of time, Beloved, when God took Jesus, **“[who knew no sin and made Him to be sin for you and me.]”** (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:21) **“[And] the wages of sin is death....”** (Romans 6:23) and God turned His back on Jesus Christ for you, for you, for your sins so that you might have forgiveness of sins. **“And some of those ...were standing there, [and] they heard it, [and they] began**

saying, ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’ [And] immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. But the rest of them said, ‘Let us see whether Elijah will come [and] save Him.’” (Matthew 27:47-49) It was like a spectacular event. “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.” (Matthew 27:50) What did He cry? John 19 verse 30 tells us that on the cross His last words were this in that language of the day. “Tetelestai! Tetelestai!” “...It is finished...!” (John 19:30) The debt had been paid for in full. He had been made sin for us so that you and I “...might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21, KJV) And God had turned His back on Jesus and He experienced death. This is why in that garden He said, [“If it’s possible to do it any other way, yet not My will, but Thine be done.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 26:39) Now it is done. It is finished. The debt is paid for in full. And it says, “...Jesus cried out ... with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil [and] the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.” (Matthew 27:50-51) What was happening? Well Hebrews tells us that you and I, because of the death of Jesus Christ, can now enter into the presence of God, [“into the holy of holies through the rent veil of the flesh of the Son of God.”] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 6:19) Colossians tells us this, that God wrote, and you read it in Colossians that God wrote the certificate of the debt of our sins in the body of Jesus Christ. When He was being scourged, your sins and my sins were being written in His flesh. [“And then He took away that parchment of debt, and having nailed it to the cross you and I have forgiveness of sins.”] (PARAPHRASE, Colossians 2:14) Jesus bore in His body our sins, Beloved One. God wrote them in His flesh. You owe Him absolute righteousness. Jesus paid it in full. “...It is finished...!” (John 19:30) The debt is paid in full. O Beloved, you can have forgiveness of sins. You can have eternal life. It’s all in Jesus Christ. That rent veil was a sign



entering into the new covenant. And when you and I approach God through Jesus Christ, **“Jesus said..., ‘I am the way..., [I am] the truth..., [I am] the life; [and] no one comes to the Father but [by] Me,’ (John 14:6)** so the veil was torn in two. Josephus tells us it would take two team of oxen pulling that veil in order to tear it. But God did it, bidding you and me to come to Him through **“...the Lamb of God who takes away [your sins]...!” (John 1:29)**