

## *What Will You Do With Jesus? #5*

Joe Slater

Roman soldiers, what will you do with Jesus? The soldiers answer, "We'll mock him!" *"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. Then when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified"* (Matthew 27:27-31).

Doesn't that make your blood boil? Anyone with a modicum of decency finds this conduct despicable. Like a cat tormenting a mouse before eating it, these soldiers had their sadistic fun before crucifying what was to them just another trouble-making Jew. They would show this "King of the Jews" a thing or two about being king! They pressed a scarlet robe onto a back that was bleeding profusely, cut to ribbons by innumerable lashes. They pierced Jesus' scalp with sharp, stinging thorns from the mock crown they twisted. For a scepter they put a reed in His right hand, bowing in mock obeisance, followed by scornful spitting and hitting His head with the reed, pounding the thorns deeper into His bleeding scalp. Think how He bled when they yanked the robe off and put His own clothes back on.

Surely none of us would treat God's Son with such contempt – or would we? When we sin willfully, we trample the Son of God underfoot, count His holy blood as common, and insult the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29). What will you do with Jesus?

## Home Is Where The Heart Is

**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"** (Matthew 6:19-21).

One thing that stands out as I read God's word is that this world which is so real to me isn't real at all. Paul pictures our physical bodies as tents and our real body will be attained in heaven, a body fit to house our spirit throughout eternity. (II Corinthians 5:1-2).

There is a better place than this world. The rollcall of great people of faith seeking that heavenly country is found in Hebrews 11. Their attitude was that they were strangers here. Their treasures were laid up in heaven.

We need to learn to live like pilgrims in this world. We are only passing through and there is a home, a country so superior waiting for us. If God is all that is in heaven, then that is enough. The word pictures in the scriptures tell us that heaven will be awesome.

Therefore, don't put down roots here. Don't settle in and get comfortable here. Don't put your desires here and do not put your treasures in this place. This world is only temporary, a shadowland as it were. There is no security here. In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus reminds us our treasures entrusted on the earth can be destroyed or stolen. But what we lay up in heaven cannot be destroyed or stolen.

We have to examine our hearts daily and decide to keep our eyes focused on the path leading to heaven.

--Ed Wittlif (Denver, CO)

## CHIMNEY CORNER SCRIPTURES

A "Chimney Corner Scripture" is a saying frequently quoted as Scripture but not found in the Bible. "Cleanliness is next to godliness" is a good example. A good saying! Parents love it; but it's not in the Bible.

"Every tub must sit on its own bottom" means every person is responsible for the consequences of their own actions. That principle is stated in the Bible: *"For each must bear his own load"* (Galatians 6:5), but the tub metaphor is not found in Scripture.

"God helps those who help themselves" is not found in Scripture; in some contexts it is even contrary to Scriptural truth. In matters of salvation, God helps only the "poor in spirit," i.e. those who understand they are not able to help themselves.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child" is found in principle, but not in exact words, in Proverbs 13:24, *"Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."* Also, *"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol"* (Proverbs 23:13-14).

--Cecil May Jr. (via *Preacher Talk*)

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### **Wrong One, Son!**

The children's Bible class teacher asked, "Who was the first man?"

One eager child raised his hand, saying "Hoss!"

The surprised teacher corrected him: "No, son, it was Adam."

The child replied, "Oh, OK, I knew it was one of them Cartwright boys!"