

June 17

Priests, Soldiers, and Bystanders Add Insult to Jesus' Injury

A company of evildoers have enclosed me. They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all of my bones. They look and stare at me. They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing – Psalm 22:16-18

[John 19:19-25, Calvary, Thursday] So they took Jesus to the place called "The Place of a Skull," which is called in Hebrew, "Golgotha," where they gave him sour wine to drink mixed with *myrrh and gall*. [Psalm 69:21] When he had tasted it, he would not drink. They crucified him, and with him two others, on either side one, and Jesus in the middle. *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."*

Pilate wrote a title also, and put it on the cross. There was written, "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Therefore many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews therefore said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'he said, I am King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments and made four

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parts, to every soldier a part; and also the coat. Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. Then they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide whose it will be," that the

Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, "They parted my garments among them.

For my cloak they cast lots." [Psalm 22:18]

Therefore the soldiers did these things.

Those who passed by blasphemed him, wagging their heads, and saying, "You who destroy the temple, and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

Likewise the chief priests also mocking, with the scribes, the Pharisees, and the elders, said, "He saved others, but he can't save himself. If he is *the Christ*, the King of Israel, let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God deliver him now, if he wants him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" *Those robbers who were crucified with him insulted him and cast on him the same reproach. The soldiers also mocked him, coming to him and offering him vinegar, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"* [Matthew 27:33-43, Mark 15:22-23, Luke 23:33-37]

1. Why are the priests' words ironic? How do you change your tune to get what you want?
2. What was Jesus wearing? How many ways was he humiliated? How can you thank him?
3. Jesus, thank you for being humiliated so that I could stand before God unashamed; today I...