

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Mockery

(Jerry Fite)

One of the things Jesus had to endure was mockery. While his nerve endings sent the message of pain to his brain when he was beaten, scourged and crucified; his mind registered the pain derived from derision and ridicule. Adding insult to injury was literally true with what our Lord had to endure.

Herod's soldiers  
“...mocked him, and arraying Him in gorgeous apparel, sent Him back to Pilate” (Luke 23:11). Dressing Jesus in gorgeous or bright clothing is something we might say children would do in play. Such a perception would be consistent with the literal meaning of the Greek word “mock” (EMPAIZO) in this text. It comes from PAIZO which means to “play like a child” and related to PAIS meaning to “sport” or “jest”.

The governors' soldiers  
“platted a crown of thorns and put it upon his head and a reed in his right hand; and they kneeled down before him and mocked him saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’” (Matthew 27:29). Mockery is

cruel. Instead of a crown of jewels, mockery placed a crown of thorns on the head of Jesus. Instead of kneeling in reverence before a King, mockery bowed and spoke with derision.

Mockery hounded Jesus even while He was enduring crucifixion. With wagging heads, passersby said, “*Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself; if thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross* (Matthew 27:40). The chief priests chimed in with their ridicule by saying, “*He saved others; himself he cannot save...*” (Matthew 27:41).

Mockery's childish put down, does not change reality's truth. After the theatrical mockery of Jesus as King, He stands as King just as He was born to be, even the King of kings (John 18:37, Revelation 17:14). The jesting over the impossibility of rebuilding a destroyed temple in three days did not detour Jesus from raising the temple of His body on the third day. This was the truth in His heart when he uttered such amazing words and

truth prevailed, (John 2:19-21). Instead of saving Himself, Jesus willingly died on the cross to save all. His resurrection was God's clear sign that Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 1:4). After all the mockery, the things made fun of stand as truth.

Being put down as a “babbling” did not detour Paul from preaching Jesus and the resurrection. He did not quit his ministry when some, after hearing him preach, mocked him (Acts 17:18, 32). Paul knew the raised and living Savior was a fact and an essential message for man's salvation. He endured mockery because he knew derision had no power over truth.

As Christians, we must not allow derision to detour our work and message. Mockery wins only when the jesting keeps us from speaking the truth, and living up to the truth of the Gospel. We must continue to live the godly life, even when men call us evil (I Peter 2:12). Who knows, after the dust of mockery settles, even the mocker will acknowledge the truth!