

Luke 22:64

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote thee?

Analysis

And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote thee? The mockery intensifies into cruel game. The phrase *perikalypsantes auton* (περικαλύψαντες αὐτόν, 'having blindfolded him') uses *perikalyptō* (περικαλύπτω), meaning to cover completely, especially the face. They *etypton autou* to *prosōpon* (ἔτυπτον αὐτοῦ τὸ πρόσωπον, 'struck his face')—repeated blows to the head. The challenge *prophēteuson*, *tis estin ho paisas se* (προφήτευσον, τίς ἐστιν ὁ παίσας σε, 'prophesy, who is the one having struck you?') mocks Jesus' prophetic claims.

The irony is multilayered: they mock Jesus as false prophet while He perfectly fulfills prophecy. They demand He 'prophesy' who struck Him—trivial knowledge—while ignoring His prophecies of death and resurrection. They abuse the omniscient God-man who knows not only His tormentors' names but their thoughts, sins, and eternal destinies. The game 'prophesy who hit you' was known as *kolaphizō* (κολαφίζω, 'buffet')—children's game made cruel. They treat the King of kings like entertainment.

Historical Context

This 'game' appears in all Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 26:67-68, Mark 14:65), showing its impact on witnesses. Blindfolding and striking was both mockery and torture—disorientation increases fear and helplessness. The guards likely knew of

Jesus' prophetic ministry (His teaching in the Temple was public) and sarcastically challenged His powers. Their mockery echoes Satan's wilderness temptations ('If thou be the Son of God'—Matthew 4:3, 6)—both challenge Christ to prove deity through self-serving miracles. Jesus refuses both.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why do the guards mock Jesus' prophetic gift while His prophecies are being fulfilled?
2. What does Jesus' refusal to 'prove' His deity through miracle reveal about His mission?
3. How does enduring mockery for Christ's sake connect believers to His sufferings (1 Peter 4:14)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ περικαλύψαντες αὐτὸν, ἔτυπτον αὐτὸν, τὸ^{τοῦ}
And when they had blindfolded him they struck him G3588
G2532 G4028 G846 G5180 G846

πρόσωπον, καὶ ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν, λέγοντες Προφήτευσον
on the face And asked him saying Prophesy
G4383 G2532 G1905 G846 G3004 G4395

τίς ἐστιν ὁ παίσας σε
who is it that smote thee
G5101 G2076 G3588 G3817 G4571