

# Luke 23:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

## Analysis

**Herod with his men of war set him at nought** (ἐξουθενήσας, exouthenēsas)—'treated him with contempt,' 'despised him utterly.' The same verb appears in Psalm 22:6 (LXX): 'I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.' Herod **mocked him** (ἐμπαίξας, empaizas), the prophesied mocking of the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 50:6, Psalm 22:7). The **gorgeous robe** (ἐσθῆτα λαμπράν, esthēta lampran)—'bright,' 'radiant,' perhaps white or purple—constituted mock-royal vestment, treating Jesus's kingship as farce.

Yet every mockery fulfills prophecy. They dress the King of Glory in royal robes as jest; God will clothe him in genuine glory at the resurrection. They 'set him at nought'—the very word Peter later uses in Acts 4:11 quoting Psalm 118:22: 'the stone which was set at nought of you builders.' Herod's contemptuous dismissal, sending Jesus back to Pilate, becomes another link in the chain of sovereign purpose—concentrating guilt upon both Jewish and Gentile authorities while moving inexorably toward Golgotha.

## Historical Context

Roman soldiers and Herodian troops often used mock investiture to humiliate political prisoners claiming kingship. The 'gorgeous robe' may have been a white or purple garment from Herod's wardrobe, sarcastically acknowledging Jesus's claims while ridiculing them. Herod's sending Jesus back to Pilate both deferred

responsibility and subtly acknowledged Roman supreme authority—the tetrarch had no interest in executing someone he deemed a harmless fool.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Herod's mockery paradoxically testify to truths about Jesus that Herod himself rejected?
2. In what ways do we 'set Christ at nought' through casual dismissal of his claims or reduction of Christianity to mere religion?

## Interlinear Text

---

ἐξουθενήσας δὲ αὐτὸν ὁ Ἡρώδης σὺν τοῖς  
set him at nought And him G3588 Herod with G3588  
G1848 G1161 G846 G2264 G4862

στρατεύμασιν αὐτὸν καὶ ἐμπαίξας περιβαλὼν αὐτὸν  
men of war him and mocked him and arrayed him  
G4753 G846 G2532 G1702 G4016 G846

ἐσθῆτα λαμπρὰν ἀνέπεμψεν αὐτὸν τῷ Πιλάτῳ  
robe in a gorgeous again him G3588 to Pilate  
G2066 G2986 G375 G846 G4091