

# Mark 15:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.

## Analysis

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**They smote him on the head with a reed** (ἐτύπτων αὐτοῦ τὴν κεφαλὴν καλάμῳ)—The imperfect tense of *typtō* (τύπτω, 'strike') indicates repeated, continuous beating. The *kalamos* (κάλαμος, reed-staff) they had mockingly placed in His hand as a royal scepter became an instrument of torture, driving the thorns deeper into His skull with each blow.

**Did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him**—The Greek *proskynēō* (προσκυνέω, worship) means to prostrate oneself, the highest form of reverence. This grotesque combination—spitting (*emptysantes*, ἐμπτύσαντες) while genuflecting—represents total mockery. Yet Isaiah 50:6 prophesied exactly this: 'I gave my back to the smiters...I hid not my face from shame and spitting.' Jesus endured ritual defilement (spitting rendered one ceremonially unclean) to purify us.

## Historical Context

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Spitting on someone was the ultimate act of contempt in both Roman and Jewish culture, representing total rejection and defilement. Roman soldiers' brutality toward condemned prisoners was legendary—they had unlimited authority to abuse them before execution. The specific combination of mock worship and physical abuse was designed to psychologically destroy the victim's dignity before crucifixion destroyed their body.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' silent endurance of mockery challenge your response to personal humiliation?
2. What does Christ's willingness to be ceremonially defiled reveal about the costliness of your redemption?
3. In what subtle ways might you 'worship' Jesus outwardly while treating Him contemptuously in your heart?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἔτυπον	αὐτῷ	τὴν	κεφαλὴν	καλὰμῳ	καὶ	ἐνέπτυν
And	they smote	him	G3588	on the head	with a reed	And	did spit
G2532	G5180	G846		G2776	G2563	G2532	G1716
αὐτῷ	καὶ	τιθέντες	τὰ	γόνατα	προσεκύουν	αὐτῷ	
him	And	bowing	G3588	their knees	worshipped	him	
G846	G2532	G5087		G1119	G4352	G846	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 14:65** (Parallel theme): And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.