

Mark 15:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

Analysis

When they had mocked him, they took off the purple (ἐνέπαιξαν αὐτῷ, ἐξέδυσαν αὐτὸν τὴν πορφύραν)—The verb ekdyō (ἐκδύω, 'strip off') indicates forcible removal. Dried blood would have caused the robe to adhere to His scourge-torn back; ripping it off would have reopened wounds. They returned His own clothes, likely so His execution would appear 'legitimate' rather than theatrical.

Led him out to crucify him (ἐξάγουσιν αὐτὸν ἵνα σταυρώσωσιν)—The present tense verbs create vivid immediacy: 'they are leading...they are crucifying.' The Greek stauroō (σταυρόω, crucify) derives from stauros (cross/stake). Mark's stark, unadorned language mirrors the brutal reality: the Suffering Servant's humiliation transitions to execution. Hebrews 13:12 notes Jesus 'suffered outside the gate'—bearing our sin outside the camp, like the scapegoat (Leviticus 16:21-22).

Historical Context

Roman execution protocol required the condemned to carry their own crossbeam (patibulum) through crowded streets to the execution site outside city walls. This public procession served as deterrent propaganda. Jewish law required executions outside the city (Leviticus 24:14; Numbers 15:35) to prevent ritual defilement of the community—though crucifixion was purely Roman.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' journey 'outside the gate' (bearing your sin) reshape your understanding of sanctification?
2. What comfort do you find in knowing Christ experienced humiliation's full psychological and physical dimensions?
3. In what ways are you tempted to remove Christ's 'reproach' by conforming His message to worldly respectability?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὅτε ἐνέπαιξαν αὐτόν ἐξέδυσαν αὐτόν τὴν
And when they had mocked from him they took off from him G3588
G2532 G3753 G1702 G846 G1562 G846

πορφύραν καὶ ἐνέδυσαν αὐτόν τὰ ἱμάτια τὰ ἕδια
the purple And on from him G3588 clothes G3588 his own
G4209 G2532 G1746 G846 G2440 G2398

καὶ ἐξάγουσιν αὐτόν ἵνα σταυρώσωσιν αὐτόν
And led from him to crucify from him G846 G2443 G4717 G846

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org