

Mark 15:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

Analysis

They parted his garments, casting lots upon them (διαμερίζονται τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτοῦ, βάλλοντες κλῆρον)—The Greek diamerizomai (διαμερίζομαι, 'divide among themselves') fulfills Psalm 22:18 with precision: 'They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.' Roman executioners customarily claimed the condemned's possessions as perquisites. The verb ballō (βάλλω, 'cast') + klēros (κλῆρος, 'lot') indicates dice-throwing for clothing portions.

Mark's terse **what every man should take** emphasizes their casual indifference—gambling for a dying man's clothes beneath His cross. Yet this gambling fulfilled ancient prophecy. John 19:23-24 notes Jesus' tunic was seamless (woven from top throughout), likely His finest garment. Jesus who 'emptied Himself' (Philippians 2:7) died with nothing—naked, humiliated, and dispossessed—that we might be 'clothed with Christ' (Galatians 3:27).

Historical Context

Crucifixion victims were stripped naked (Roman custom, though Jewish sensibilities may have allowed a loincloth). A typical Jewish man's clothing included: outer cloak, tunic, belt, sandals, and head covering—roughly four pieces plus one seamless tunic. Soldiers' rights to spoils were standard military practice. The gambling occurred at Golgotha's base while Jesus suffered above—executioners routinely showed callous indifference to victims' agony.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' total dispossession challenge your attachment to possessions and status?
2. What does the soldiers' fulfilled-prophecy-through-callousness reveal about God's sovereignty over human sin?
3. In what ways do you need to be 'clothed with Christ' rather than self-made righteousness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	σταυρώσαντες	αὐτὰ	διεμερίζον	τὰ	ἱμάτια	αὐτὰ
And	when they had crucified	him	they parted	G3588	garments	him
G2532	G4717	G846	G1266		G2440	G846
βάλλοντες	κλήρον	ἐπ'	αὐτὰ	τί	τί	ἄρῃ
casting	lots	upon	him	every man	every man	should take
G906	G2819	G1909	G846	G5101	G5101	G142

Additional Cross-References

Luke 23:34 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Acts 5:30 (Parallel theme): The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Parallel theme): For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Deuteronomy 21:23 (Parallel theme): His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Galatians 3:13 (Parallel theme): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

1 Peter 2:24 (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

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