

# 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

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**They parted his garments, casting lots upon them** (διαμερίζονται τὰ ἴμάτια 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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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καὶ σταυρώσαντες αὐτὰ διεμερίζον τὰ ιμάτια αὐτὰ<sup>G3588</sup>  
And when they had crucified him they parted garments him  
G2532 G4717 G846 G1266 G2440 G846

βάλλοντες κλῆρον 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

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**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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