

# Matthew 27:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

## Analysis

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**They spit upon him** (ἐνέπτυσαν, enéptysan)—the ultimate ancient Near Eastern gesture of contempt (Numbers 12:14, Deuteronomy 25:9). Jesus receives the spittle of soldiers, fulfilling Isaiah 50:6: **I hid not my face from shame and spitting.**

**Took the reed, and smote him on the head**—the mock scepter becomes an instrument of torture, driving thorns deeper. The head that will be crowned with glory (Hebrews 2:9) is beaten. The irony: they strike the Judge of all the earth while he restrains twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26:53).

## Historical Context

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Spitting was considered deeply defiling in Jewish culture (Leviticus 15:8) and equally contemptuous in Roman culture. Striking a condemned man before execution was common practice, softening resistance and providing entertainment for soldiers.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

### Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's acceptance of spitting and beating demonstrate the extent of his humility (Philippians 2:5-8)?
2. What does Christ's restraint of divine power in this moment teach about the voluntary nature of his sacrifice?

### Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐμπτύσαντες εἰς αὐτοῦ ἔλαβον τὸν κάλαμον καὶ  
**And** **they spit** **on** **him** **and took** <sup>G3588</sup> **the reed** **And**  
G2532 G1716 G1519 G846 G2983 G2563 G2532

ἔτυπον εἰς τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ  
**smote** **on** <sup>G3588</sup> **the head** **him**  
G5180 G1519 G2776 G846

### Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 50:6** (Parallel theme): I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

**Matthew 26:67** (Parallel theme): Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

**Isaiah 53:7** (Parallel theme): He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

**Mark 15:19** (Parallel theme): And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.