

Matthew 27:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

Analysis

The chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders—the Sanhedrin members who condemned Jesus now gloat at his execution. **Mocking** (ἐμπαίζοντες, empaizontes)—the same word used when they mocked him after the trial (Matthew 27:29). Their presence is calculated cruelty—ensuring their enemy's destruction.

These religious leaders, who should shepherd Israel, mock the Good Shepherd. They who study Scripture daily fail to recognize Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 being fulfilled before their eyes. Spiritual blindness reaches its apex: they reject Messiah while standing at Messiah's cross.

Historical Context

That Sanhedrin members attended the crucifixion (leaving Jerusalem during Passover preparation) shows their determination to ensure Jesus's death. Their presence also prevented sympathizers from intervening, lending religious authority to Rome's execution.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the religious leaders' mockery demonstrate that spiritual knowledge without spiritual sight leads to the greatest errors?
2. What does their presence at the crucifixion reveal about the human heart's capacity for self-deception?

Interlinear Text

ὁμοίως	δὲ	καὶ	οἱ	ἀρχιερεῖς	ἐμπαίζοντες	μετὰ	τῶν
Likewise	G1161	also	G3588	the chief priests	mocking	him with	G3588
G3668		G2532		G749	G1702	G3326	
γραμματέων	καὶ	πρεσβυτέρων	ἔλεγον				
the scribes	also	elders	said				
G1122	G2532	G4245	G3004				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 35:26 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.