

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-  
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Mark 15:15-20 “So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified. Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and began to salute Him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.”<sup>1</sup> [

**Quote:** “My sorrow and sickness laid stripes on His back, My sins caused the blood that was shed; My faults and my failures have woven a crown Of thorns, that He wore on His head.” Ira F. Stanphill

**T**here can be no greater price to be paid for an offense than the price of one’s life. The emotional suffering of Christ in Gethsemane, His physical torture at Gabbatha and His spiritual abandonment on Golgotha that was captured in the most haunting words of human history—“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me”—give us a glimpse into the wrath of God towards sin. And yet how casually we can look upon our offenses that cost Jesus such unfathomable suffering. If we are not careful, First John 1:9 can become like some Spiritual Master Card of sorts that we swipe as though we are saying, “Put that on Christ’s account.” Praise God that He is longsuffering!

Gabbatha, Golgotha—  
Crucibles of Shame, Pain

We do well to meditate upon what Jesus endured so that we might have eternal life. Nothing else can come close to compelling us to contemplate the seriousness of our sin. “I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.” “Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men.” “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His

stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”<sup>2</sup>

In 1707, Isaac Watts penned words that can slide off our tongues without penetrating our hearts. We simply do not pause often enough to think upon what it cost Christ to empty the cup of God’s wrath and pay redemption’s price.

**W**hen I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

May we always be growing in our gratitude for the grace that sent Jesus to endure such crucibles of shame and pain as Gabbatha and Golgotha. May we value the shed blood of Christ applied to our account far above any of this world’s vain allurements. May we grow in our love for Christ by meditating upon the seriousness of sin, the horror of wrath, the wonder of grace, the gift of mercy and the living hope that is ours in Him. May we be a mouthpiece of the glorious gospel.

<sup>1</sup> See also Matthew 27:26-31 <sup>2</sup> Isaiah 50:6; 52:14; 53:5-7 Also Psa.22