



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 3, 2019

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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TELL THE STORY OF TRUE SUFFERING

A sports news network reported an NFL's investigation showed an offensive lineman for one of the teams was harassed by one of his teammates last year.

An investigation ordered by the league said it found evidence that a player had been the subject of racial slurs and bullying during his time with the football team.

Accusations and the league's investigation received national news attention for several weeks last year. Dozens of lines of newsprint and numerous television news stories covered the departure of the "victim" from the team.

Jesus' harassment and mistreatment prior to His crucifixion was much worse than anything any football player suffered. Yet, most people probably do not know very much about what happened to the Lord.

During Jesus' crucifixion, not only was there the physical pain of being nailed to a cross, but also the pain of ridicule. In one prophetic passage, King David wrote, "*All those who see me ridicule me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 'He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!'*" (**Psalm 22:7-8, NKJV**).

People who are falsely accused or ridiculed are not afraid to take the matter before the national media; however, Jesus never said anything. The prophet Isaiah described this hundreds of years before it happened. He wrote, "*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,*" (**Isaiah 53:7**).

We are the ones left to tell others about the suffering Jesus endured so that others might be saved from sin. Let us carry the message of the blessed Savior who died for us all to the people of the world who need to hear it so they may turn from sin, obey the gospel and live for Jesus.

John Henson

AN ILLUSTRATION OF GOD'S GRACE

Shortly after David became king of Israel, he remembered a promise he had made to Jonathan and Saul concerning their descendants. To Jonathan, he promised to protect his life and to show lovingkindness to his house forever (**I Samuel 20:12-17**). To Saul, he vowed not to cut off his descendants after him (**I Samuel 24:21-22**). So in **II Samuel 9**, David seeks out any descendants of Saul and of Jonathan to whom he may show favor. The only candidate he could find was Jonathan's crippled son, Mephibosheth.

So David summoned Mephibosheth into his presence. One can only wonder what was going through Mephibosheth's mind as the king's officials came to the door. He may have thought that he was about to be executed. It was not uncommon in that era, when an entirely new family administration would take over, that the new king would kill all of the former king's family. But Mephibosheth was about to find out differently.

David promised to restore Mephibosheth all the land which had been his father's, and which he had evidently lost sometime after the death of Saul and his father. Not only would David restore all that to which Mephibosheth was heir, he would make him his regular guest at the palace. Mephibosheth was overcome with gratitude and relief, falling prostrate before David, calling attention to the fact that he is but a "dead dog."

What David expressed here is an amazing act of grace. In this touching scene, David portrays himself as a foreshadow of God distributing His grace to us today. David showed kindness, love, and mercy toward Mephibosheth. David sought this man out, not because of what he could contribute to David and to his kingdom (because he was handicapped and deemed worthless in the eyes of men in those days), but because of David's love for his friend, Jonathan.

Christians, we should rejoice that we have been saved by God's sovereign grace. We, like Mephibosheth, were undeserving of God's grace, and our sinful state was repulsive to God. We were like "dead dogs." But in spite of our pitiable condition, God chose to pour out His love on us.

To receive this grace, however, we must act like Mephibosheth. We must, like Mephibosheth, come to recognize our unworthiness to dwell in God's presence. We must, like Mephibosheth, humbly accept God's grace, as extended through His Son Jesus Christ (note: this is done today by obeying the gospel of Christ). It is then that we will be invited into fellowship with Him, be a part of His family, and be allowed to fellowship and dine with Him (**Revelation 3:20**).

Edd Sterchi