



AN  
*Overcoming*  
HOPE

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MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: MARCH 28, 2021

The Cruellest of Executions Laced with Cowardly Verbal Attacks  
Mark 15:21-32

The hostility Jesus faced was always part of God's plan for redemption.

1. A picture of the hostility Jesus experienced at the cross:

*Isaiah 53:3* He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- a. Despite moments of popularity, Jesus and his message were disregarded and thrown aside.
- b. Jesus' experience of pain was complete.
- c. Jesus intimately sympathizes with the human condition.

2. What Jesus accomplished through the hostility he faced:

*Isaiah 53:5* But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

In the face of hostility, Jesus remained obedient to the Father.

1. The soldiers beat Jesus so severely, he couldn't carry his own cross.

*Mark 15:21* And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. *22* And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull).

2. Jesus refused to be distracted from his mission.

*23* And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

3. The soldiers callously gambled over his clothes.

*24* And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

4. They implemented a horrific form of execution.

*25* And it was the third hour when they crucified him.

5. The Romans ridiculed God's promise.

*26* And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

**6. Pilate counted him among the lawless.**

*27 And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.*

**7. The crowds blasphemed him for his claims.**

*29 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!"*

**8. The religious rulers mocked his ability to save.**

*31 So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32a Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe."*

**9. The real criminals condemned the innocent Jesus.**

*32b Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.*

**Jesus' example secures a hope that overcomes hostility.**

***Matt. 5:11** "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

***1Pet. 2:21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*

**Reflection & Discussion**

- 1. Jesus' suffering was both foreknown and planned by God. How does this influence your attitude to your own suffering?**
- 2. Take some time to reflect on the attacks and execution that Jesus, the Author of Life, obediently endured. How confident are you that God loves you? What kind of mindset does that love produce?**
- 3. As society grows bolder in its hostility towards followers of Jesus, what promises are you clinging to? How does our hope produce Christ-likeness today?**

**SONGS**

"Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)" - Paul Baloche and Brenton Brown

"God So Loved" - Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash

"O Praise The Name (Anástasis)- Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, and Benjamin Hastings

"Resurrecting" - Christopher Brown, Mack Brock, Matt Ntele, Steven Furtick, and Wade Joye

**BUDGET**

**GIVING LAST WEEK:** \$27,984.18

**WEEKLY NEED:** \$35,272.00

**YTD GIVING:** \$347,865.64

**YTD GENERAL NEED:** \$423,264.00