

Good Friday **The Whipping Post**

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes

Text: Matthew 27:26

Introduction Summary

Jesus paid it all. We all know He was crucified for our sin, but few know that before the crucifixion, He was scourged and put to shame. As you study, take note of how much Jesus loves you. He gave His life so that all who believe on Him could live forever.

- I. **The Scourging:** scourging (gk) *frag-el-lo-o*: to whip, to lash as a public punishment. A very severe punishment. The flesh being cut by the whips. Sometimes whipped to death; this was done to inflict a greater suffering than crucifixion; it preceded crucifixion
 - A. Matthew 27:17 -- Barabbas, a notorious criminal was released, and Jesus was condemned so that sinners, even the chief sinners, might be released;
 - B. Matthew 27:27 -- The law of Moses: the number of stripes should not exceed forty.
 1. The person who was sentenced to scourging was formerly laid upon the ground, and the blows inflicted on his back in the presence of the judge. Afterwards the criminal was tied to a low post.
 2. The instrument formerly used was a rod. Afterwards they employed thongs or lashes attached to the rod. To make the blows severe and more painful, they sometimes fastened sharp points of iron, or pieces of lead, in the thongs. The law was expressed that the number of stripes should not exceed forty. The Jews, to secure accuracy in counting, used a scourge with three lashes, which inflicted three stripes at once. With this, the criminal was struck thirteen times, making the number of blows
 - C. 2 Corinthians 11:24 – Paul was scourged five times in the same way.
 - D. The Romans did not feel bound by the law of the Jews, in regard to the number of stripes. Our Savior was scourged until He was so weak, He couldn't carry His cross. It was a punishment, inflicted by brutal soldiers, and continued until the victim was fainting under the torture. The person was almost entirely stripped of his clothes.
- II. **The Stripping and Shame, Matthew 27:28**
 - A. Genesis 3:7 – The shame of nakedness came in with sin

- B. Revelation 3:18 – “...Christ came to... prepare for us white garments to cover us.”
- C. The manner of the Romans was to bind the condemned person to a post; two strong men first scourged him with rods of thorns; then two others scourged him with whips full of knots; lastly, two more scourged him with whips of wire, and therewith tore off the very flesh from the person’s back and sides.
 - 1. Psalm 129:3, The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows.
 - 2. Isaiah 50:6, 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.
 - 3. Isaiah 53:5 “... with his stripes we are healed.”

III. The Crucifixion: Jesus was delivered to be crucified.

- A. The way of crucifixion: A cross was set up on the ground, to which the hands and feet were nailed. It was on those nails that the weight of the body hung, till it died of the pain.
 - 1. Numbers 21:8-9 – Serpent raised up on the pole
- B. The cross was raised up; thrust into the ground with a violent shock. That shock disjointed the body. Only the Romans did it that way to slaves and the vilest criminals.
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - Believers are made righteous
- D. Isaiah 53 – By His stripes, we are healed!

Closing Summary

The scourging, stripping, and crucifixion Jesus went through was, unquestionably, the most horrifying death anyone has ever gone through. However, if He hadn’t done it, we would have been destined for hell. Instead, He paid the full penalty of death so we could be made righteous in Him. He did it all for you.