

## **“HOW TO PRAY BIG”**

**1 CHRONICLES 4:9-10**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**OTHER THAN THE COMMERCATION THAT THE TEXT GIVES HIM, NOTHING MORE IS KNOWN ABOUT JABEZ.**

**HE SHOWS UP, PRAYS A PRAYER, DISAPPEARS, AND IS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN. BUT THE IMPACT HIS PRAYER MAKES IS ETERNALLY MEMORIALIZED IN SCRIPTURE.**

**HERE IS A VIRTUAL UNKNOWN, WHO IS NOT IN THE SAME LEAGUE WITH MOSES OR DANIEL, WHO PRAYED A TWENTY-NINE WORD PRAYER THAT SO MOVED GOD, IT IS PRESERVED AS A MODEL PRAYER.**

**SINCE THAT'S THE CASE, WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE THE DYNAMICS OF THIS PRAYER THAT SHOW US HOW TO PRAY BIG.**

**AND THERE ARE THREE THINGS JABEZ UNDERSTOOD ABOUT PRAYING THAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND.**

#### **I. FIRST, I WANT YOU TO NOTICE THE CAREFUL WAY JABEZ PROJECTED HIS PRAYER.**

**VERSE NINE SAYS, "*JABEZ CRIED OUT TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL.*"**

**NOW IF YOU'RE A STUDENT OF THE OT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS TITLE, "*GOD OF ISRAEL*" IS FREQUENTLY USED, AND IT IS NOT COINCIDENTAL THAT JABEZ PRAYED THIS WAY.**

- A. HE TITLE, “GOD OF ISRAEL” IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT TESTIFIES TO THE SUPREMACY OF GOD.**

1. **IT DECLARES THAT ISRAEL'S GOD WAS THE ONE, TRUE, ALMIGHTY GOD.**
2. **IN JABEZ'S DAY, PAGANISM WAS RAMPANT. THE EGYPTIANS, PHILISTINES, AND CANAANITES, WERE ALL POLYTHEISTIC.**
3. **THEY BELIEVED IN MANY GODS AND THAT EACH OF THEM GOVERNED A SPECIFIC PART OF THE UNIVERSE.**
4. **THERE WAS A GOD OF RAIN, A GOD OF FIRE, A GOD OF THE SEAS, A GOD OF PROCREATION, AND SO ON.**
5. **AND DEPENDING ON THE NEED, AN EGYPTIAN OR A PHILISTINE OR A CANAANITE WOULD SEEK A PARTICULAR GOD TO ANSWER THAT NEED.**
6. **BUT WHEN JABEZ PRAYED TO THE "*GOD OF ISRAEL*," HE RECOGNIZED THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOD THAT RULED EVERY DIMENSION OF LIFE AND THE UNIVERSE.**
7. **IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE WHO YOU ADDRESS IN PRAYER—ALLAH, BUDDHA, OR WHOMEVER.**
8. **AND IT MATTERS BECAUSE THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE SOVEREIGN LORD.**
9. **GOD SAID IN [ISAIAH 44:6]: "*I AM THE FIRST AND I AM THE LAST; APART FROM ME THERE IS NO GOD.*" AND THEN VERSE EIGHT SAYS, "*IS THERE ANY GOD BESIDES ME, OR IS THERE ANY OTHER ROCK? I KNOW OF NONE.*"**

## ILLUSTRATION

**SOME YEARS BACK OPRAH WINFREY INTERVIEWED THREE OF THE NATION'S TOP PSYCHICS.**

**AS SHE INTERVIEWED THEM, ONE PSYCHIC DEFENDED THEIR WITCHCRAFT BY SUGGESTING THEIR PRACTICES WERE NO DIFFERENT THAN THE PRACTICES OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS.**

**THE PSYCHIC ACTUALLY INSISTED THAT IF THEIR PROGNOSTICATING WAS WRONG, SO WAS THE FORETELLING OF DANIEL, ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND OTHER BIBLE PROPHETS.**

10. **YOU KNOW, THESE DAYTIME TALK SHOWS ARE PERFECT EXAMPLES OF THE APOSTLE PAUL'S WORDS WHEN HE SAYS THEY ARE *"EVER SPEAKING BUT NEVER ABLE TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."***
11. **MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTER, LET ME PUNCTUATE ONE IMMUTABLE TRUTH: THERE IS BUT ONE TRUE GOD AND THERE IS BUT ONE PROPER WAY TO APPROACH GOD. HIS NAME IS JEHOVAH AND WE SEEK HIM THROUGH HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST!**
12. **WHEN WE SEEK TO KNOW THE MIND AND WILL OF GOD, IT IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE TO CONSULT PSYCHICS, OR PALM READERS.**
13. **IT'S NEVER CORRECT TO USE CRYSTAL BALLS, TAROT CARDS, INCANTATIONS, OR OUIJA BOARDS. GOD IS NEVER PLEASED WHEN YOU SEEK GUIDANCE FROM A HOROSCOPE.**
14. **THE BIBLE STRICTLY PROHIBITS CHRISTIANS FROM CONSULTING SUCH MEDIUMS.**

**15. PEOPLE THAT PERSIST IN SEEKING THESE AVENUES OF PSYCHIC GUIDANCE ACTUALLY OPEN A DOOR FOR DEMONIC ACTIVITY TO ENTER THEIR LIFE.**

**a. IT'S AN INVITATION FOR THE DEVIL TO COME IN AND TAKE CONTROL.**

**16. YOU ARE ASKING FOR TROUBLE WHEN YOU EVEN CRACK THE DOOR FOR SATAN TO INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE, REGARDLESS OF HOW INNOCENT THE GESTURE MAY BE!**

**a. JESUS SAID IN JOHN 10:10, "*THE DEVIL COMES ONLY TO KILL, STEAL, AND DESTROY.*"**

**17. THE LORD HAS ORDAINED BUT ONE MEDIATOR TO STAND BEFORE HIMSELF AND MAN, JESUS CHRIST!**

**a. HE IS THE ONLY ONE DESERVING OF OUR TRUST TO GUIDE, PROTECT, AND BLESS OUR LIVES.**

**b. AND THAT IS WHY JESUS SAID: "*I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.*"**

**c. SO JABEZ, LIVING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT DAYS, UNDERSTOOD THAT "*THE GOD OF ISRAEL,*" THE SUPREME GOD, WAS CAPABLE OF ANSWERING BIG PRAYERS.**

**B. WHEN JABAZ CALLED THE LORD, "THE GOD OF ISRAEL", HE RECOGNIZED HIS COVENANT-RELATIONSHIP HE HAD WITH GOD.**

**1. DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY BORN AGAIN BELIEVER, EVERYONE WHO HAS ACCEPTED JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOR, IS IN COVENANT WITH HIM?**

2. THAT MEANS YOU ARE SECURELY BOUND TO GOD AND HE IS SECURELY BOUND TO YOU.
3. THAT MEANS THAT HE HAS PLEDGED TO LOVE, PROVIDE, ASSIST, HELP, AND *"NEVER LEAVE NOR FORSAKE YOU."*
4. WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND THIS COVENANT OF CARE, IT WILL HELP YOU RELEASE FAITH FOR PRAYING BIG.

### ILLUSTRATION

#### HERE'S HOW GOD HAS COVENANTED WITH US.

IF DEACON DESTIN DIED AND YVONNE REMARRIED, HER NEW HUSBAND WOULD IMMEDIATELY INHERIT A STEP DAUGHTER.

HE WOULDN'T HAVE THE PREROGATIVE OF CHOOSING WHETHER HE WANTED THE CHILD, LITTLE KATHERINE WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME HIS STEP-CHILD.

THAT DOESN'T DESCRIBE GOD'S FATHERLY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CHILDREN. ADOPTION DESCRIBES THAT RELATIONSHIP.

ADOPTION IS WHEN CHILDREN ARE CHOSEN, NOT INHERITED, INTO THE FAMILY.

A COVENANT IS MADE BY PARENTS TO MAKE SOMEONE PART OF THEIR FAMILY WITH ACCESS TO ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS.

THE COVENANT OF ADOPTION MEANS THE PARENTS PLEDGE TO LOVE, PROVIDE, NURTURE, AND DEFEND ANOTHER'S RIGHTS.

THAT DESCRIBES WHAT OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS PLEDGED TOWARD US.

1. JABEZ UNDERSTOOD HIS COVENANT

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND THAT'S WHY HE COULD PRAY A BIG PRAYER.

2. HE KNEW *"THE EARTH WAS THE LORD'S AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF."* SO GOD COULD GIVE HIM ANYTHING.

## **II. JABEZ'S PRAYER WAS PROPERLY PROJECTED BUT SECONDLY, IT WAS IMMORTALIZED IN SCRIPTURE BECAUSE OF ITS PASSION.**

VERSE TEN SAYS, *"JABEZ CRIED OUT TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL, 'OH, THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME, AND ENLARGE MY TERRITORY.'"*

- A. WHEN YOU READ THIS PRAYER YOU CAN NEARLY FEEL THE FERVENCY AND PASSION THAT POUNDS FROM JABEZ'S HEART.
  1. THIS WASN'T A TIMID OR SILENT PRAYER.
  2. IT WAS BOLD AND HOT-HEARTED. AND THIS IS JUST HOW GOD WANTS US TO PRAY.
  3. AS I HAVE MENTIONED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, ONE OF MY FAVORITE QUOTE CONCERNING PRAYER COMES FROM JOHN BUNYAN.
    - a. BUNYAN SAID: "IT IS BETTER FOR YOUR PRAYER TO BE WITHOUT WORDS THAN YOUR WORDS TO BE WITHOUT HEART."
- B. WHY DO YOU THINK GOD WANTS FIRE AND PASSION IN OUR PRAYING?
  1. IT'S BECAUSE MOSES, ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND JOEL TELL US THAT GOD IS A *"CONSUMING FIRE."*

2. **GOD WANTS YOU AND ME TO ASSUME HIS NATURE.**
3. **I KNOW THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GOD CALLS US TO BE STILL AND LISTEN TO HIS VOICE.**
4. **AT OTHER TIMES HE WANTS US TO QUIETLY MEDITATE ON HIS WORD.**
5. **THERE ARE TIMES HE WANTS US TO WORSHIP HIM WITH GENTLE REVERENCE.**
6. **BUT THEN THERE ARE TIMES GOD WANTS US TO LEAP INTO THE FIRE OF HIS PRESENCE AND PRAY WITH FURIOUS PASSION.**

### **ILLUSTRATION**

**THERE WAS THIS PREACHER WHO WAS PRAYING ONE MORNING, AND THE LORD SPOKE ONE WORD TO HIM: "INSIPID."**

**HE THOUGHT, WOW, I NEED TO GRAB A DICTIONARY AND SEE WHAT THE LORD IS SAYING TO ME.**

**WHEN HE LOOKED UP THE WORD HE WAS REALLY EDIFIED. THE WORD *INSIPID* MEANS: "LACKING IN QUALITIES THAT INTEREST, STIMULATE, OR CHALLENGE; DULL OR FLAT."**

7. **GOD IS UNDER NO COMPULSION TO RESPOND TO US WHEN WE PRAY WITH A COMPLACENCY THAT COULD CARE LESS IF HE HEARD US.**
8. **AND HE IS CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO FORCE-FEED HIS PROMISES TO US IF WE HAVE NO QUEST FOR THEM.**
9. **GOD OFFERS US PROMISES, BUT LIKE ABRAHAM, WE HAVE TO MARCH TOWARD THEM WITH AGGRESSIVE, HEART-FILLED FAITH.**

**C. YOU SEE, WHAT DISTINGUISHED JABEZ FROM HIS BROTHERS WAS HIS PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF WHAT GOD SAID COULD BE HIS.**

- 1. OTHERS IN ISRAEL HAD BECOME COMPLACENT ABOUT CONQUERING CANAAN; BUT NOT JABEZ.**
- 2. HE TOLD THE LORD HE WANTED EVERY SQUARE INCH OF REAL ESTATE THAT RIGHTFULLY BELONGED TO HIM.**

**III. WE'VE CONSIDERED THE PRAYER'S PROJECTION, AND THE PRAYER'S PASSION, NOW THIRDLY NOTE THE PRAYER'S PERCEPTION.**

**A CASUAL OBSERVANCE OF THIS PRAYER MAKES IT APPEAR SELFISH. LISTEN ONCE AGAIN:**

***"OH, THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME AND ENLARGE MY TERRITORY! LET YOUR HAND BE WITH ME, AND KEEP ME FROM HARM SO THAT I WILL BE FREE FROM PAIN."***

- A. AT FIRST GLANCE IT REALLY DOES APPEAR SELFISH. BUT WHEN YOU TAKE TIME TO EXAMINE IT IN LIGHT OF GOD'S PROMISES TO ISRAEL, IT'S FAR FROM SELFISH.**
  - 1. THIS TWENTY-NINE WORD PRAYER IS EXTRACTED DIRECTLY FROM WHAT GOD PROMISED TO GIVE ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS.**
  - 2. ONE BIBLE SCHOLAR NOTED THAT THIS PRAYER WAS PROBABLY UTTERED AROUND THE TIME OF ISRAEL'S CONQUEST OF CANAAN.**

3. **AND AFTER 40 YEARS OF WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS IT WAS TIME TO POSSESS THE PROMISED LAND.**
  4. **SO WHEN JOSHUA COMMANDED THE PEOPLE TO CLAIM THEIR LAND, JABEZ STEPPED FORWARD AND MADE HIS REQUEST.**
- B. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, AS BIG AS THIS PRAYER WAS, ALL JABEZ DID WAS ASK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAD PROMISED.**
1. **IT WASN'T COVETOUS, GREEDY, OR SELFISH; JABEZ SIMPLY WANTED WHAT GOD SAID BELONGED TO HIM. AND THIS IS HOW WE SHOULD PRAY.**
  2. **SOME PEOPLE WANT TO PRAY BIG PRAYERS BUT THEY WANT TO PRAY THEM ON THEIR OWN TERMS.**
  3. **THE APOSTLE SAID IN [JAMES 4:2]: "*YOU ASK AND DO NOT RECEIVE, BECAUSE YOU ASK WITH WRONG MOTIVES, SO THAT YOU MAY SPEND IT ON YOUR PLEASURES.*"**
  4. **IF YOU WANT TO RELEASE BIG FAITH FOR BIG PRAYERS, YOU HAVE TO PRAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL.**
    - a. **[1 JOHN 5:14] SAYS: "*THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WHICH WE HAVE BEFORE HIM, THAT, IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. [15] AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US IN WHATEVER WE ASK, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE REQUESTS WHICH WE HAVE ASKED FROM HIM.*"**

## ILLUSTRATION

FOR YEARS I HAVE ENJOYED A QUOTE FROM THE REVIVALIST DWIGHT L., MOODY.

"LET A MAN FEED FOR A MONTH ON THE PROMISES OF GOD, AND HE WILL NOT TALK ABOUT HOW POOR HE IS. YOU HEAR PEOPLE SAY, OH, MY LEANNESS! HOW LEAN I AM! IT IS NOT THEIR LEANNESS, IT IS THEIR LAZINESS. IF YOU WOULD ONLY READ FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION AND SEE ALL THE PROMISES MADE . . . TO ABRAHAM, TO ISAAC, TO JACOB, TO THE JEWS AND TO THE GENTILES, AND TO ALL HIS PEOPLE EVERYWHERE—IF YOU WOULD SPEND A MONTH FEEDING ON THE PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD—YOU WOULD NOT BE GOING ABOUT COMPLAINING HOW POOR YOU ARE. YOU WOULD LIFT UP YOUR HEAD AND PROCLAIM THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE, BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T HELP DOING IT!"

- C. WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED YOU FROM HIS WORD? CLAIM IT!
1. IT'S TIME FOR BELIEVERS TO DECLARE WITH JABEZ, *"OH, THAT YOU WILL BLESS ME IN DEED."*
  2. IF THE BIBLE SAYS, *"BY HIS STRIPES YOU ARE HEALED"* LET'S MAKE THE EFFORT TO CLAIM IT.
  3. IF THE BIBLE SAYS, *"GOD GIVES US THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART"* LET'S ASK GOD TO GIVE US THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART.
  4. IF THE BIBLE SAYS, CHRIST OFFERS US *"LIFE AND JOY AND PEACE"* THEN LET'S CLAIM *"LIFE AND JOY AND PEACE."*

5. IF THE BIBLE SAYS GOD GIVES REST TO THE WEARY, PEACE TO THE TROUBLED, STRENGTH TO THE FAINT, WISDOM TO THE NEEDY, THEN LET'S BE BOLD ENOUGH TO PRAY WITH JABEZ, "*OH, THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME INDEED!*"
- D. THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE NOT 'YES AND NO; MIGHT AND MAYBE.'
1. [2 CORINTHIANS 1:20] SAYS, "*ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE YES AND AMEN THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.*" THEY ARE AFFIRMATIVE SAINTS OF GOD!
- E. I BELIEVE IT'S TIME FOR BELIEVERS TO EXPERIENCE AN ATTACK OF *SPIRITUAL CLAUSTROPHOBIA*.
1. LET ME DIAGNOSE *SPIRITUAL CLAUSTROPHOBIA*:
- a. IT'S AN INTENSE FRUSTRATION CHRISTIANS EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY SENSE THEIR SPIRITUAL BOUNDARIES PRESSING IN ON THEM.
  - b. THEY FEEL RESTRICTED FROM ADDITIONAL BLESSINGS AND CAN'T LIVE WITHIN THEIR CIRCUMSCRIBED PARAMETERS.
  - c. THE ONLY CURE FOR *SPIRITUAL CLAUSTROPHOBIA* IS BY TAKING THE PROMISES OF GOD AND CLAIMING THEM.

### CONCLUSION

NOTICE ANOTHER DYNAMIC ASPECT OF JABEZ'S PRAYER.

WHEN JABEZ PRAYED, "*OH, THAT YOU WOULD ENLARGE MY TERRITORY,*" HE UNDERSTOOD THAT BECAUSE HIS PRESENT

**ESTATE WAS BLESSED, HE  
BLESSING.**

**COULD EXPECT ADDITIONAL**

- A. CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW FOOLISH THIS REQUEST  
FOR GOD TO ENLARGE JABEZ'S TERRITORY**

**WOULD HAVE BEEN, HAD GOD NOT ALREADY  
PLACED HIS SANCTIFYING APPROVAL ON THE  
TERRITORY JABEZ ALREADY POSSESSED?**

- 1. JABEZ COULD HAVE NEVER RELEASED ANY  
FAITH FOR INCREASE HAD HIS PRESENT  
ESTATE NOT RESTED UNDER GOD'S BLESSING.**

- B. THE REASON GOD CAN'T ADD HIS BLESSING TO  
SOME FOLKS IS BECAUSE THEIR PRESENT ESTATE  
ISN'T BLESSED.**

- 1. THEY DON'T LIVE IN CONFORMITY TO GOD'S  
WORD, AND SO WITH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE  
AND CONVICTED HEART, THEY ARE UNABLE TO  
MUSTER ANY FAITH FOR GREATER THINGS.**

- 2. GOD WOULDN'T HAVE ENLARGED JABEZ'S  
TERRITORY HAD HE BEEN GROWING  
MARIJUANA.**

- 3. HOW CAN A VIDEO STOREOWNER ASK GOD TO  
ENLARGE HIS BUSINESS WHEN HE IS  
MARKETING PORNOGRAPHIC MOVIES?**

- 4. GOD IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO PROSPER  
EVIL ENTERPRISING.**

- C. BUT A RIGHTEOUS MAN, COMPLYING WITH GOD'S  
WORD, HAS A RIGHT TO ASK GOD FOR BLESSING!**

1. IF YOUR HEART IS PURE BEFORE GOD IN ALL YOU DO, GOD WILL GLADLY BLESS YOUR WELFARE.

a. *[1 JOHN 3:21]. "BELOVED, IF OUR HEART DOES NOT CONDEMN US, WE HAVE CONFIDENCE BEFORE GOD; (22) AND*

*WHATEVER WE ASK WE RECEIVE FROM HIM, BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS AND DO THE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT."*

2. WHEN WE LIVE IN A WAY THAT DISPLEASES GOD, IT ROBS HIM OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO BLESS US.
3. GOD WANTS YOU TO CONFORM TO HIS WAYS SO HE CAN BLESS YOU.

D. THE WRITER SAYS THAT JABEZ PRAYED FOR GOD'S "*HAND TO BE WITH HIM.*" WHAT DID THAT MEAN?

1. WHEN JABEZ ASKED FOR GOD'S "*HAND [TO]BE WITH HIM*" IT WAS A STATEMENT OF HUMILITY THAT RECOGNIZED BLESSING CAME FROM GOD AND GOD ALONE.
2. YOUR SKILLS DIDN'T OPEN DOORS FOR YOU;
3. YOUR WISDOM DIDN'T MAKE YOU.
4. BUT GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY ARE THE REASONS WE ARE BLESSED.

a. *[JAMES 1:17] SAYS: "EVERY GOOD THING GIVEN AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH WHOM THERE IS NO VARIATION OR SHIFTING SHADOW."*

1. WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT EVERY ENRICHMENT OF LIFE COMES DIRECTLY FROM GOD'S HAND OF GRACE;
  2. JABEZ RECOGNIZED IT, AND IT IS WHY GOD PAID SUCH CAREFUL ATTENTION TO HIS FAITH-FILLED PRAYER.
- E. HIS PRAYER WAS SPECIAL BECAUSE HE DESIRED CONTINUED VICTORY OVER HIS ENEMIES .
1. LISTEN TO THE LAST PART OF HIS PRAYER:  
*"LET YOUR HAND BE WITH ME, AND KEEP ME FROM HARM SO THAT I WILL BE FREE FROM PAIN."*
  2. JABEZ WANTED TO SAFEGUARD HIMSELF FROM HIS ENEMIES DEFEATING HIM.
- F. I LIKE THIS PART OF THE PRAYER BECAUSE IT CLOSELY RESEMBLES HOW JESUS TOLD HIS APOSTLES TO PRAY IN THE LORD'S PRAYER.
1. JESUS SAID: *"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE."*

### ULTRA CONCLUSION

TO HELP US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PRAYER OF JABEZ, WE MUST LOOK AT THE PRAYERS OF JESUS.

- A. REMEMBER, BEFORE JESUS WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS, THEY WHIPPED HIM ALL NIGHT LONG.
- B. FOLLOWING THE WHIPPING, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE SOLDIERS MOCKED AND BEAT JESUS.
  1. THEY DRESSED HIM UP AS A KING WITH A CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD.
  2. THEN THEY BEAT HIM AND SPAT ON HIM.

3. **THEY HURLED INSULTS AT HIM.**
  4. **JESUS WAS PHYSICALLY ABUSED BY HIS ENEMY.**
- C. NOT ONLY WAS JESUS PHYSICALLY ABUSED, HE WAS HUMILIATED AS WELL.**
1. **AS YOU MAY RECALL, THE SOLDIERS MADE JESUS CARRY HIS OWN CROSS TO THE PLACE OF EXECUTION. THIS PROCESS WAS DESIGNED TO HUMILIATE.**
  2. **JESUS WAS BEING SHOWCASED TO THE PEOPLE AS A VILE CRIMINAL.**
- D. IF THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH, JESUS WAS EXECUTED PUBLICLY.**
1. **PEOPLE STOOD AROUND AND WAITED FOR HIM TO DIE.**
  2. **EVERY GASP, EVERY TWITCH FROM PAIN, EVERY MOMENT OF STRUGGLE WAS WATCHED BY THE CROWD.**
  3. **HE COULDN'T EVEN TALK PRIVATELY WITH HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**
- E. BUT THERE WAS YET ONE FINAL INSULT.**
1. **EVEN AS HE WAS HANGING ON THE CROSS, THE GUARDS WERE GAMBLING TO SEE WHO GOT TO KEEP HIS CLOTHES. T**
  2. **HIS WAS WORSE THAN A FAMILY FIGHTING ABOUT THE WILL BEFORE SOMEONE HAS DIED.**
  3. **IT'S LIKE WATCHING ALL YOUR POSSESSIONS SOLD BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES. HIS DIGNITY WAS GONE. JESUS WAS HUMILIATED.**

**F. IN SPITE OF ALL THEY DID TO HIM, THE SON OF GOD HARBORED NO HATRED FOR THEM. BUT HE PRAYED ABOUT IT.**

**1. HIS FIRST WORDS FROM THE CROSS WERE “FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DON’T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING.”**

**a. THESE WORDS FROM JESUS SHOW US THE COMPASSIONATE HEART OF OUR SAVIOR. JESUS PRAYED ABOUT IT THAT WAS A BIG PRAYER.**

**2. AND THEN HE WENT ON AND DIED FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.**

**3. THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB;**

**4. BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HANDS.**