

Midweek Lent 5 Sermon  
“Dis-sing God” (Luke 23:6-11)  
March 13, 2024  
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 5<sup>th</sup> Lenten Wednesday is Luke 23:11.

**“6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. 7 And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. 8 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. 9 Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. 10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. 11 Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. 12 That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.**

So far the text...

“Treated Him with contempt”...In the vernacular of this modern age, you sometimes hear another word said to mean the same thing – “dis” . “Dis” – Merriam Webster’s dictionary says it’s a slang word which means: “to treat with disrespect or contempt : INSULT” .

As we’ve gone through the various objects of the passion of Jesus, there has been much dissing from all sides. Judas Iscariot gave the ultimate dissing of Jesus by kissing Him like a friend and then betraying Him for 30 pieces of silver. The arrest of Jesus by the Sanhedrin was itself a dissing of Jesus to give the appearance that Jesus was guilty. They came with swords and clubs to give the impression that Jesus was a violent and dangerous offender. But, instead, He healed the fallen ear that Peter cut off.

Oh, we know how much the media loves to capture the early morning raid on someone’s home and then a mugshot for the world to see. There has to be guilt if you are going to go to the extreme of an arrest in darkness, right?

And of course, Peter himself, dissed Jesus by loudly proclaiming that he didn’t know the Man! That Jesus didn’t mean anything to him...and the rooster crowed. What an opportunity to do the opposite of dissing your Savior by defending Him, honoring Him, esteeming Him, commending Him.

And then the blindfold... the mocking and insults to Jesus as He was struck by those who called on Him to show He was the Son of God by saying who hit Him...dissing with words and now physical violence.

Which leads us to more of the same from Herod and Pilate's soldiers who put a gorgeous robe on Him and mocked Him. Everyone took a turn to ridicule Jesus. Pilate's soldiers had to one up Herod's soldiers by robing Jesus again, putting a reed in His hand as if it were a scepter and crowning Him with thorns. So, we read from Matthew 27 these details of how Jesus was dissed.

**“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.”**

Yes, this was man's unchecked sinful nature, our sinful nature, on full display. It was a group hazing, but not with any good intent at heart. We hear of initiation rites of rookies on sports teams that have to have their hair shaven. We hear of fraternities and sororities who make the pledges do embarrassing things to join the group. Pledging wasn't my thing, but I heard all the crazy stories, from friends at college. But, Jesus wasn't being initiated into any group. He was being ostracized and separated from the group of soldiers.

There are so many ways to diss a person with words and actions to show how they are unliked, unfriended, and dissed. I was watching part of the hearing on the news that was televised yesterday to question the report on President Biden's handling of classified documents. Our leaders in congress should set the example for the public shouldn't they, in decorum? How do they speak of one another and to one another? With decency? Politeness? Courtesy? A representative from Missouri referred to President Trump with these words: “White Supremacist in Chief”. Ok...is this public servant showing respect or contempt?

Social media can be a way to uplift and encourage, comfort and strengthen someone, but it also can be used to shame and embarrass a person to the point that you hear of young people taking their own lives.

Dissing can be done by simply ignoring another person, refusing to shake someone's hand, acting like they don't exist, ghosting someone by not returning texts or calls. At the Kansas City Chiefs victory parade, a shooting broke out simply because someone was staring at another person. You can diss someone by simply looking at them the wrong way.

Yes, facial expressions and attitudes are all part of the way we speak nonverbally and can either be uplifting or dissing. Sometimes a facial expression gets misinterpreted. Do friends or spouses

sometimes diss each other by revealing something embarrassing about the other in public. Was it just in fun? Did the other spouse think it was funny or is a need to apologize and forgive?

Oh...sinful men, women and children get pretty good, or should I say more accurately, pretty bad, at dissing one another with words, hand gestures, facial expressions, actions and the like. And for this and much more, Jesus wore the scarlet robe and the crown of thorns. He endured the shame and allowed Himself to be unjustly humbled for all our unjust humbling of others.

Jesus endured the pain and the insults in obedience to His Father's will – the just suffering for the unjust. Jesus was never disrespectful to His Heavenly Father, never questioned the cup of suffering that He had to drink. Jesus was never disrespectful to His parents, to the authorities of church and state, and even to His enemies. He lived the perfect life that we haven't lived, suffering the "dissing" in payment for all sins. Jesus made full satisfaction for all the times we haven't spoken kindly of another, and not defended another who was being unjustly shamed.

As we will hear in Sunday, Jesus predicted a third time to His disciples that all this was going to happen. Jesus says in Luke 18:

**“31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”**

It had to be accomplished Jesus said. He had to be mocked, insulted, scourged and killed. What did Jesus accomplish? The removal of all our sin!

This is what God promised that He would accomplish through His Son's shedding of blood in Hebrews 10.

**19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

And in full assurance of faith, we are united with Jesus in His death and resurrection, sealed in the pure water of our baptisms! And being united with Jesus, the Holy Spirit changes our dissing of others to loving of others just like Jesus did. The Holy Spirit gives us the mind of Jesus. Listen to our first reading from Ephesians 2 again.

**“fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”**

Where we have dissed another, we humbly ask and receive forgiveness. And we look for the interests of others, defending, speaking well of them, helping them to know of Jesus unfailing love for them. Though the world would all diss you, Jesus never will.

And remaining in faith to Him all your life, Jesus promises you a crown. Not a crown of thorns for our wrong doings...no He paid for them all with that crown. No, He promises you the crown of life.

**“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10**

**“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” James 1:12**

Blessed is the man, woman and child who endures the dissing, the testing, the trials of this life, for what awaits you is the white robe of righteousness and the crown of life given to you by our loving Savior Jesus. Amen!

**“And this peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**