

## **What pain hurts the most?**

**His trial resembled a lynching mob. They arrested him one night. They killed him the next day. Hired thugs lied to the magistrate. No witnesses verified the charges against him. The judge knew the prisoner's innocence. He cowardly caved to outside pressure.**

**Enemies showed the accused no mercy. Gave him no dignity. They flogged him raising bloody stripes on his back. Uniformed soldiers mocked him and then led him wounded and aching to his place of execution. Spikes driven through his hands kept him suspended on roughly hewn tree limbs. Nails in his feet caused his body to slump cramping his internal organs. In six hours, he died, naked, humiliated, and nearly alone.**

**What crime did he commit? None. He healed diseased, disabled, and maimed folks. He gave peace to wounded souls. He preached about the Creator's love. He treated everyone equally. He slighted no one because of background or race. In him, common people found hope and purpose.**

**The political and religious leaders might have ignored the attention his popularity brought him. But he did something they couldn't forgive. The same thing makes us edgy. We say we want truth. The media claim they pursue it. Yet we shudder when we have to reveal it about ourselves.**

**Why did they crucify Jesus? He always told the truth. He practiced no deception to win favor. He confronted people with the things they needed to change. For that, they crucified him. How do we react when the Lord exposes the truth about us? Do we confess or do we get defensively angry? **"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart,"** Hebrews 4:12. **Bob Blair****