

by Bill Crews

... *And when they had mocked him, they took off from him the robe, and put on him his garments, and led him away to crucify him*" (Matt. 27:26-31).

**At Golgotha, the place of the crucifixion:** "Golgotha" which means "the place of the skull," was outside the city of Jerusalem, probably on the north side. All four writers state, simply, "then He was crucified" (Matt. 27:35; Mk. 15:24; Lk. 23:33; Jn. 19:18), without giving the details involved in such an execution. First century readers knew all too well. The body was suspended on a heavy, rough wooden structure by four large spike-like nails driven through hands and feet. The pain was horribly excruciating and affected the entire body in a variety of cruel ways; it usually lasted for a few days before death came. "And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, *Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself: if thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross. In like manner also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. He is the King of Israel; let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe on him. He trusteth on God; let him deliver him now, if he desireth him: for he said, I am the Son of God. And the robbers also that were crucified with him cast upon him the same reproach*" (Matt. 27:39-44). And, as if all this were not enough, that He might truly bear the guilt of our sins and become an all-sufficient Savior for us, this had to happen: "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" (Matt. 27:46). Four verses later, His death.

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