

# Happy Easter



Bunny Rabbits and chocolate eggs. It's time to put on our best clothes and maybe go to church if we are in a culture where church going is still a status symbol. After church we have an egg-hunt with the children and or grandchildren in the garden. Saying goodbye comes too soon. Oh yes, we forgot to say, "Happy Easter" - "Happy Easter everyone, Bye."

Instead of eggs, let's go on a more realistic & mature hunt to find out the true reason for the season.

## WHIPPING BOY

In times past when Kings and Queens ruled, their royal children could not be disciplined; they instead had a 'whipping boy'.

"This was a child, brought up with a prince or with a young king, and punished on his behalf, when the prince or king was naughty: crucially the royal and his proxy were friends so any pain was vicariously felt." <sup>1</sup>

"Whipping boy: a person who is blamed or punished for the faults or incompetence of others." (Dictionary)

Jesus moved from his heavenly dimension into our four dimensional realm to present himself as our Whipping Boy to show us our true royal standing.



## The Innocent for the Guilty

*"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was*



*bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we*

*are healed.. for the transgression of my people was he stricken."* (Isa.53:5,8)

Jesus became our "Whipping Boy" in the hope that we'd behave as royals. As it says:

*"you are a chosen generation, a **royal** priesthood.. called out of darkness into his marvellous light."*

(1Peter 2:9) *"You made us unto our God **kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."*** (Rev.5:10)

He came so we would truly learn what it means to serve, to teach, to love, to forgive, to wash each other's feet, to guide in wisdom, honesty and humility and to *"fulfil **the royal law.. you shall love your neighbour as yourself:**"* (James 2:8)

## Power of Darkness

When Jesus was taken prisoner he said, "this is **your hour, and the power of darkness.**" (Luke 22:53)

By facing the power of darkness and hate and allowing it to destroy his body he conquered it and so "delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into his kingdom:" (Col:1:13)

## The Whipping

"Pilate, willing to content the people.. delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified."

(Mark 15:15) "Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed:" (Deuteronomy 25:2)



Hence it became the forty minus one, so they would not transgress the Law of Moses by miscalculating. However the stripes that Jesus received were the lashes of the Roman '**flagrum**', which had pieces of lead embedded at the end of their leather straps. The scourging would quickly remove the skin.

This shredded his chest, body and upper legs. Many died during such a scourging.

## Crown and Falling Down

They platted a crown of thorns. They put a reed in his hand and mocked him, spat upon him, smote him on the head with the reed. The crown of thorns was pounded on his head to avoid it falling off.

He was so weakened by the 39 lashes that he was not able to carry his cross all the way and fell down several times. They found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name and him they compelled to bear his cross..' (Matthew 27:32) 'According to the Catholic "Stations of the Cross", Jesus fell down thrice.' <sup>2</sup>

## His Focus to Forgive

When they crucified Jesus and were pounding the nails through his hands and feet, he said, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they do." (Luke 23:34) He requested this for the soldiers who were swept along with the mob spirit of Pharisees' hate.

## Naked

One thing that is not often mentioned is that the Romans crucified their victims naked. He hung there in utter humiliation in agony and pain with his intimate parts exposed on people's eye level. That is why it says, "All his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off," (Luke 23:49)

He hung for six long hours gasping for breath and balancing his bodyweight on the pins that were pounded through his feet and his hands?

## Roman 'Forica' and the Vinegar

Recently I visited a Roman settlement where were the remains of the toilets, along with a poster to show how the Roman soldiers used the toilets back then. However this is **not for the fainthearted.**

I'll quote one part from the poster:

".. an open gutter near the 'customer's' feet. This was where they rinsed out the **sponges on sticks** they used for toilet paper before dunking them in a **bucket of vinegar** for 'disinfecting'."



**Vessel with vinegar**



**sponges**

I'll quote parts from the scriptures:

"Now there was set **a vessel full of vinegar**:" (John 19:28) "The rulers.. mocked him.. And **the soldiers also mocked** him, coming to him, and **offering him vinegar** (Luke 23:35,36)

"They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, **he would not drink**. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots" (Matthew 27:34,35)

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:45,46)

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, says, **I thirst**.

And they filled **a sponge with vinegar**.. and put it to **his mouth**. When Jesus therefore had **received the vinegar**, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (John 19:28-30)



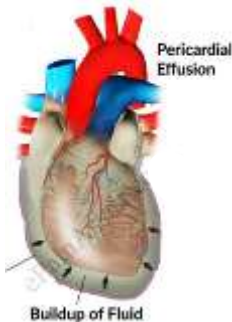
**Loved you once, love you still.  
Always loved you, always will.**

## When Enough was Enough

He received the vinegar and **then enough was enough** and he gave up the ghost. For obvious reasons he kept the fulfilment of this particular scripture till the very end - "in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." (Psalms:69:21) This vinegar is recorded in all the four gospels so we would realize what it was that the soldiers mockingly did. Shocking? Yet, he forgave back then and he still forgives.

## Blood and Water

"When they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they broke not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **blood and water**." (John 19:32-34)



*The medical term for this is **pericardial effusion** which is the build-up of an excess fluid in the sac-like structure around the heart (pericardium).. This can occur because of **injury**, such as from a chest **trauma**.*<sup>3</sup>

It causes severe heart and chest pain with shortness of breath.

## Unshakable

Love so contrary to our human nature and so beyond our comprehension. He died the death of the worst criminal and took the worst punishment that any of us could be given, with accusations flying, being spat upon, punched in the face, scourged, a crown of thorns pounded on his head, falling under his cross, hanging naked for six hours, gasping for breath, while these religious vipers spewed their venom at him and finally the sponge and vinegar which was the cherry on the 'power-of-darkness' cake.

He was unshakable until his mission was fulfilled and we would have salvation available to us.

## The Innocent for the guilty.

But even death could not keep him down. His jaw-dropping resurrection was three days later.

## Is he Risen?

The question is not "Is he risen? Is he alive?" There is plenty of **proof that he is**.

The question is, "Is he risen in my heart? Is he alive in my heart?" **My heart is like that grave**. Do I prefer to



keep my heart closed because I feel there is something stopping me from rolling away that big heavy stone? Besides this, there are 'spiritual forces or keepers' that have sealed my heart and

don't want me to open up about who is inside, and that I should just have **quiet faith**. They don't want to have Jesus come alive in me and burst open my heart.

## The Shake Up

I need an earthquake to set me free, 'And behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

The angel said to the women, Don't be afraid: for I know that you seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, just as he said.' (Mat. 28:2-5)

With this I ask the angels to shake me up and to open my heart and to silence these keepers that try to keep me quiet about who is in my heart. Let them be like dead men. I open that grave of my heart to let Jesus rise from the dead, so I can be full of life as Jesus is risen in my heart. I am not dead. No, I am alive, because he is alive in me. - "Happy Easter" –

**Get to know him**; full of love & breaking boundaries.

References:

- 1: [Whipping boy - Wikipedia](#) access date: 20-01-2020
- 2: [howmany times did jesus fall under his cross - Bing](#) access date 30-3-21
- 3: [pericardial-effusion.jpg \(667x549\) \(epainassist.com\)](#) access date 30-3-21

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