

“The Tools of Passion”
(The Crown, The Whip, and The Nails)
By
Terry Stanley

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Synopsis

Three Roman soldiers - one who crowned/mocked Jesus, one who whipped (flogged) Jesus, and one who actually crucified Jesus - give a dramatic account of the torture Jesus endured on the dreadful Friday of His death.

Scripture: Isaiah 53:5

Ministry Lesson:

The scripture says, "*He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*" The purpose of this presentation is to lead the audience to truly understand the suffering Jesus endured for our sins.

Ministry Focus: Good Friday

Cast:

Man 1 - Roman soldier that crowned Jesus.

Man 2 - Roman soldier that flogged Jesus.

Man 3 - Roman soldier that crucified Jesus

Announcer

Soloist or Choir

Props:

- A crown of thorns
- A short whip (Flagrum)
- Three large nails
- A display board and stand

Note: You can buy a replica of all three tools at www.naturesdesignsonline.com/Cat-of-nine-tails.htm

Songs (Optional):

Hymn 1: "He Wore a Crown of Thorns"

Hymn 2: "Wounded for Me"

Hymn 3: "Nailed to the Cross"

These songs were extracted from The New National Baptist Hymnal, 21st Century Edition. These are only suggestions however; whatever songs are used should relate the tool of passion being presented.

Costume: All men should wear black clothing. The focus should not be on a costume but on the tool being exhibited and the narration.

Time: 20 minutes

Director's Note:

These monologues should be presented with power and expression, not passively. These were elite Roman soldiers that were ordered to torture and crucify Jesus, not pity Him. This script can easily serve as either a stand-alone program for Good Friday or be incorporated within a Seven Last Words service.

The Crown

Narrator

As we enter this season of Passion, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While it is important that we commemorate His resurrection it is also important that we remember His death. Not just His death, but also His suffering.

The bible says, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

On the day that Jesus died, he was handed over to Roman soldiers who showed not mercy toward Jesus. Listen as these three soldiers share their final encounter with Jesus. May we never forget the price Jesus paid for our sins.

First Monologue

I am one of the Roman soldiers that mocked Jesus and put a crown of thorns on His head. (*Picks up the crown of thorns*).

It was a Thursday night when my men arrested Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane. We encountered minor resistance from a few men that were with him, however Jesus did not resist. Throughout the night, we led Jesus to stand trial before his accusers. Finally, we were ordered to take Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. After much questioning Pilate found no fault with this man. He tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders mercilessly insisted on his death. Even I was taken aback by their lack of compassion and thirst for the blood of an innocent man. Finally, Pilate gave the order; and we took Jesus to be flogged and crucified.

First, I took Jesus to my headquarters and called out my entire battalion. I said, "This man claims to be a king", so we mockingly draped Jesus in a purple robe. Then we bowed before him and shouted "Hail to the King", "Hail, King of the Jews!" (In Anger) Then I grabbed his face and asked him, "Where is your kingdom"? When He did not answer, I hit Him and asked once again, "WHERE IS YOUR KINGDOM!" The other soldiers followed my lead, each one taking their turn hitting and splitting on Jesus. Then one of my men brought me a crown of thorns. (Hold up the crown) Every King deserves a crown, (re-enact) so I shoved the crown of thorns deep into Jesus' scalp and blood poured down his face. We did not pity Jesus. Why should we? His own people rejected Him, why should we show Him mercy? Then we took Jesus to be flogged as the governor ordered.

(Hang the replica of the crown on the display board)

Soloist or Choir

Hymn: "He Wore a Crown of Thorns" (first two verses only). *The New National Baptist Hymnal, 21st Century Edition.*

The Whip

Second Monologue

I am the Roman centurion that flogged Jesus. I have flogged hundreds of men in the past, but never one for which the people showed such contempt. I must say it was not a pretty sight.

When Jesus arrived he was already bloodied and bruised from the soldier's beating. Now, it was my duty to make an example of Jesus. This punishment is not for the light-hearted. (*picks up the flagrum*) This is the flagrum...a short whip that consists of several strips of leather. In the middle of the strips are metal balls. At the tip of the strips are sheep bones or hooks; we call "scorpions". The flagrum is the most dreadful of all tool because hooks tear the flesh.

I ordered the soldiers to remove his upper clothing and tie him against the flogging pole. (Re-enact) Then I began the ghastly task of whipping Jesus and pulling back so the scorpion hooks would remove his skin. (mimic the action)

Jewish law limits the number of whips to 13; or 39 stripes, but Jesus was being punished under Roman law where there is no limit that I am bound to honor. Therefore, I flogged Jesus mercilessly until He was near death, then they took him to be crucified.

(Hang the replica of the flagrum on the display board)

Soloist or Choir

Hymn: "Wounded for Me" (first two verses only) *The New National Baptist Hymnal, 21st Century Edition.*

The Nails

Third Monologue

I am the Roman soldier that nailed Jesus to the cross. Never have I seen such a commotion over the crucifixion of one man..

- End of Preview -

Listen as the Roman soldier describes the horrific scene of the crucifixion and what occurred soon afterwards that compelled him to confess, "Truly this was the Son of God"!
