

The Scourge/Whip for Flogging

Dan Green

St. John's Lutheran School, Chicago
for Concordia University Chicago Lenten Devotions

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. Mark 15:15

Scourging was a particularly insidious punishment that the Romans inflicted on prisoners. Scourging was done primarily before crucifixion. The Roman whip (flagellum) was made of leather thongs knotted with metal, bone and sometimes contained a hook at the end. This construction allowed for maximum penetration of the flesh, excruciating pain, and often resulted in death.

The Prophet Isaiah provides insight into the scourging of Jesus. "But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and **with his stripes we are healed.**" *Isaiah 53:5*

You and I are humbled that our sins led our Savior to suffer this punishment – **with his stripes we are healed!** You and I are humbled at the love Jesus shows to the Heavenly Father that he would willingly endure this punishment - our punishment – **with his stripes we are healed!** You and I are humbled that our Lord Jesus loves us so much that he takes upon himself our transgressions and iniquities – **with his stripes we are healed!**

You and I can be confident that the price for sin has been paid in full. Jesus sheds his blood at the end of a whip and through the nails on the cross, thus becoming the Sin Offering for all mankind. Our relationship to God has been restored. "Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and **with his stripes we are healed.**"

Heavenly Father we are humbled by the love you have shown us. You have redeemed us through the suffering, death and resurrection of your beloved son. May your Holy Spirit be with us as we live at peace knowing that our sins are forgiven. Amen.