

Jesus and the Shepherd's Staff
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When you think of Jesus, and a shepherd's staff, what images comes to mind? If you're like me, you probably think of images like the gentle Jesus, the Good Shepherd, using the shepherd's staff to watch over his flock.

But there's an often-overlooked part of the Bible that involves Jesus and a shepherd's staff...

It's Matthew 27:30, and it's deep in His Passion Narrative. It's describing what the Roman soldiers do to inflict punishment to Jesus right up to this crucifixion, and it reads like this:

"They spit on him, and took the (shepherd's) staff and struck him on the head again and again."

Picture that for a moment. **The very instrument that symbolizes the guiding hand of the Good Shepherd is turned on Him in His passion.**

It must have made Him want to give up. It must have made Him want to say, *"enough already!"*. But not Jesus.

Instead, in perhaps the most "Good Shepherd" moment of them all, He endures this, for us.

His passion - His suffering, death on the cross, and the resurrection of His body from the dead - was not undertaken for His own purposes. He endured His punishment so we wouldn't have to. Through Jesus, we are made pure before God.

It doesn't seem to make much sense, Jesus getting beaten with this staff. But upon further reflection of who He is, it makes perfect sense.