

Where's Your Chair?

Mark 15:16-24



Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, my soul and my body also.
For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me
because of my affliction, and my bones are consumed. Psalm 31:9-10

Praising:

O my Saviour, lifted
from the earth for me,
draw me, in thy mercy,
nearer unto thee.

Reading:

Mark 15:16-24
Jesus is crucified

Perhaps this is the part we most want to close our eyes and shut our ears to. For the soldiers it was all part of the ritual. When an easy target presented itself the opportunity for some sport was irresistible. Really they were just letting off steam, finding some light relief in the heaviness of erecting crosses and nailing people to them. Besides, Pilate had given them their 'King of the Jews' line – it was his fault for starting it really. So what is it that makes us recoil so sharply?

Maybe it's because mocker is the behaviour we know we have come closest to. We might never have nailed anyone to a cross, but we know what it is to have poured scorn and humiliation on someone who didn't deserve either. Don't we?

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for all victims of cruelty

- those seen as different: racially, socially, politically, religiously, sexually
- those seen as weak: materially, physically, mentally, verbally, educationally
- those seen as for any reason deserving it

Father: it's the cruelty. Whenever the temptation to taunt and belittle comes upon me, the temptation to slap-down and deride – and it does: hold me back. For Christ's sake. Amen

Doing: