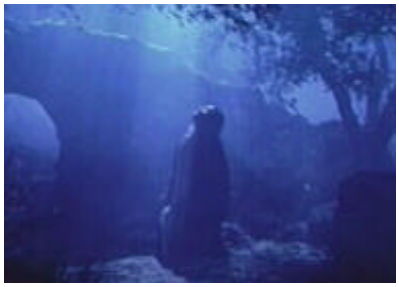
The Medical view of His suffering

Condition of Jesus

During the 12 hours between 9 PM Thursday and 9 AM Friday, he had suffered great emotional distress (as evidenced by hematidrosis), abandonment by his closest friends (the disciples), and a physical beating (after the first Jewish trial). Also, in the setting of a traumatic and sleepless night, he had been forced to walk more than 4km to and from the sites of the various trials. These physical and emotional factors may have rendered Jesus particularly vulnerable to the adverse hemodynamic effects of the scourging.



Jesus took his disciples to the garden of Gethsemane to pray… They all fall asleep. He was alone. He knew what we must pass through.

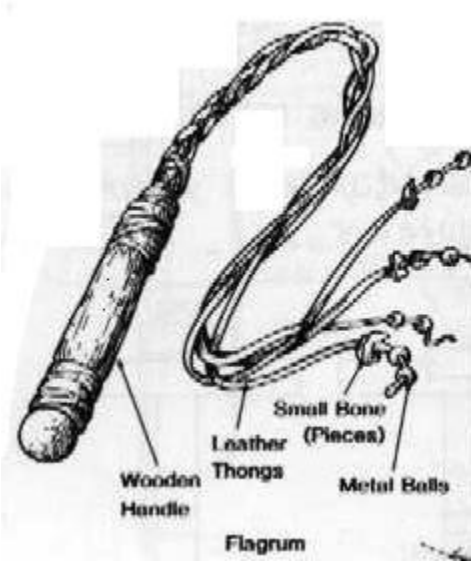
This is known in medical terms as “Hematidrosis” (Bleeding Sweat). This strange effect sometimes happens when emotional pressures are so great that tiny blood vessels burst in the sweat glands and mix the blood with the sweat causing great weakness”

Gerald H. Bradley, M.D

“And being in agony he prayed until his sweat became as great drops of blood falling to the ground.” Luke 22:44

The Scourging of Jesus

Tools



The leather whip usually had pieces of steel, balls of lead and sharp bones attached

At the Praetorium, Jesus was severely whipped. It is not known whether the number of lashes was limited to 39, in accordance with Jewish law. The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a preshock state. Moreover, hematidrosis had rendered his skin particularly tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Moreover he was mocked, beaten and made fun by soldiers. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus' physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical.

Medical aspects

As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim's back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep contusions, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and subcutaneous tissues. Then, as the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock. The extent of blood loss may well have determined how long the victim would survive on the cross.

This what they used to jammed his head; while he was in shock and loss of blood. He was mocked by soldiers.
It had 1 to 6 inch of thorns.

After all the cruel scourging, His flesh is hanging in ribbons. While he suffered, he was ordered to carry a cross weighing over 100 pounds, 650 yards to the place of execution (Golgotha). The rough wood gouged into His torn back. By now He was dehydrated. Only miracle was that he was living.

Rusty nails were driven on both his hands and his feet. It was driven amongst the carpal bones of the wrists instead of his palms. Because of the weight of his body would have ripped away the flesh between his fingers.
In ROME, they considered the wrist to be part of the hand.

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The rusty, germ laden nails would caused gangrene and tetanus to victims

"For God (The Father) so loved the world (that's you and me), that He gave His one and only Son (Jesus) that whosoever believes in Him (trust), should not perish (in the lake fire), but have everlasting life (in Heaven)"
John 3:16

This was the most agonizing death man could face. He had to support himself in order to breathe. The flaming pain caused by the spikes hitting the median nerve in the wrists explodes up his arms, into his brain and down his spine.

The spike burning through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet jerks his body erect, then the leg muscles convulse and drive his body downward…beating him against the cross.

Air is sucked in, but cannot be exhaled until the buildup of carbon dioxide in the lungs and blood stream stimulates breathing to relieve the cramps.

Exhaustion, shock, dehydration and paralysis destroy the victim.

The heart is barely able to pump the thick blood as each of his billions of cells die one at a time.

Prior to his death in all his agony, Jesus is in full control of his mind, he asks "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

Finally in death the blood coagulates and separates into serum and clotted blood cells.

Gerald H. Bradley M.D

The Meaning of the Cross

Recently Mel Gibson, a devoted Catholic directed a film titled “The Passion of the Christ” portraying the life of Christ 12 hours before his death. This movie has been released to some countries. Many have seen it. Billy Graham saw and cried. There is one who died of heart attack while watching this film. I hope he/she was saved.

Indeed the movie shows how much Christ has suffered during 12 hours before His death. Jesus was crucified on the cross. He suffered there. Why the cross? For the cross represents the evil and horror of mankind. The Bible calls it “sin” which is filthy, vile, foul, contagious and deadly in His sight.

Although the cross reveals the ugliness of human heart, it also reveals God’s grace and forgiveness. It was on the cross God himself laid upon our sins upon His own dear Son, Jesus Christ. On that cross, Jesus paid the penalty of our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:32 says, “*For God had made Christ to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”.* Isaiah 53:6, we are told that “*the Lord had laid on Him (Christ) the iniquity of us all*”. This is the good news. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ, that the Father so loved you and me that He gave His only and one Son, Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish in the lake fire but have everlasting life in heaven. It is the death of Christ that reconciled us with God. It is His death that saved us by bearing our punishment and by taking the penalty of our sin upon His own body.

On that cross, where Jesus was crucified, He prayed, “Father forgive them”. From His gracious word, pardon and forgiveness is freely opened to all who believe that He is the Lamb of God who takes away your sins.

When Christ died, He declared “It’s accomplished”. The debt that we owed God is paid for by His substitution death on the cross. All our failures, all our flaws all our transgressions have been paid on that day when Christ died. Behold what manner of love God has for me, a sinner”. We deserve to die for our own sins yet He paid for it all on the Cross.

Well Jesus died. Good news, He has defeated death. He has defeated Satan. By His resurrection on the third day, He rose from the dead in triumph. Jesus expressed this good news saying, “*Because I live, you shall live also”* (John 14:19).

Friends, the death and resurrection of Christ prove His passion for you and me. He loves us so much that He doesn’t want to see us perish. As he has raised from the dead, likewise to all who believes in Him will share His resurrection life. And to all who believes in Him, they will experience God’s forgiveness and eternal life. Life with Christ forevermore.

What must we do to experience eternal life? “*Repent and believe in the Gospel!”*. To believe in the Gospel is to trust Jesus Christ for His finished work on the Cross for us. Would you repent and believe the Gospel now?