

THE SENSE OF THE PASSION

INTRODUCTION

A. Luke 22:42

In prayer to the Father on the night of His betrayal, Jesus referred to His forthcoming suffering as a “cup” to “drink.”

B. Hebrews 2:9

Christ “tasted” death for everyone. In these verses, tasting is symbolic, but we can more fully appreciate His passion when we grasp His literal, physical pain.

I. THE SENSE OF SMELL

A. Mark 14:3-9

Leading up to His passion, Jesus’ head was anointed with expensive, fragrant oil of spikenard.

B. John 12:1-8

Also, Mary anointed His feet with that spikenard. She used an entire pound of it, so much that its aroma filled the entire house. Jesus said this was done for His burial, so the scent would have lingered until past His death.

II. THE SENSE OF SOUND

A. John 19:24

He heard the soldiers below Him talking about divvying up the very last of His earthly possessions, the very clothes off His back.

B. Mark 15:34-36

He heard people misunderstand some of the few words He managed to utter from the cross.

C. Matthew 27:39-43

He heard people mock His deity.

D. Luke 23:42

He heard one sinner come around to the truth and acknowledge He is King.

III. THE SENSE OF SIGHT

A. **Luke 22:54-62**

He saw His own friend and disciple Peter deny ever knowing Him.

B. **Mark 14:42-46**

He saw His friend and disciple Judas Iscariot betray Him to an armed crowd.

C. **Matthew 27:45**

He saw three hours of darkness.

D. **John 19:26-27**

He saw His mother and His best friend staying near Him until the end.

IV. THE SENSE OF TASTE

A. **Matthew 27:34**

As one perishing, He was offered strong drink (**Proverbs 31:6**), but He refused to let His senses be dulled. He would suffer through the ordeal of crucifixion without relief and speak from a clear mind.

B. **John 19:28-30**

At the very end, no doubt dehydrated and feverish, the Lord thirsted and said so. This wine was not mixed, as was the other stuff. It was there just to refresh Him.

V. THE SENSE OF TOUCH

A. **Matthew 26:39**

He fell on His face. It's possible He merely prostrated Himself, but it's not worded that way. If it was as literal as it sounds, then His face was bruised and maybe bloodied.

B. **Luke 22:44**

His face would be very tender because, after falling on His face, blood forced through His skin without an open wound. He sweat blood!

C. Isaiah 50:6

His face was in even more pain because His beard was plucked out.

D. John 18:12, 24; Matthew 27:2

His wrists were sore, possibly chafing, because three times He was bound, either with rope or iron shackles.

E. John 18:13-14, 24, 28; Luke 23:6-7, 11; Mark 15:22

1. His feet were probably sore because He went on six forced marches:

a. He went from Gethsemane to the house of Annas, over $\frac{3}{4}$ mile as the crow flies.

b. He went from the house of Annas to the house of Caiaphas, about $\frac{3}{8}$ mile.

c. He went from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium, about $\frac{5}{8}$ mile.

d. He went from the Praetorium to Herod's palace, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or a few feet — depending on the map.

e. He went from Herod's palace back to the Praetorium, again $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or a few feet.

f. He went from the Praetorium to Golgotha, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to $\frac{5}{8}$ mile.

2. These approximate measurements are direct lines from each location to the next, not the actual paths He would have walked, which certainly would have been longer.

3. On a sleepless night, He may have been made to walk about 3 miles or more. By itself, the distance is not much, but it would have added to His weariness.

F. John 18:22; Mark 14:65; John 19:3

On three occasions, He received an untold number of strikes to the face:

1. An officer of the high priest slapped His face.

2. At the Sanhedrin, He was beaten and slapped (not to mention blindfolded and spat upon).
3. The praetorians slapped or punched Him.

G. John 19:1

He was scourged. He was not beaten with rods. He was not lashed with a whip. He was scourged with a Roman flagellum, an implement of torture involving a wooden handle with leather thongs attached, and pieces of bone or iron on the end of those thongs. The root of the word flagellum gives us the word “masticate” in English, meaning to chew. We also derive the word “fillet” from this. Jesus’ back was chewed up, just ripped to shreds.

H. Matthew 27:29-30

He was made to wear a crown of thorns and was then struck on the head with a reed.

I. Mark 15:15-20, 24

After being scourged, with His flesh torn open, Jesus was mockingly dressed in a royal robe. Naturally, His open wounds would have begun to clot to that fabric, but, before He was marched to Golgotha, they removed the purple robe and put His own clothes back on Him. That would have reopened the wounds that were just beginning to heal. When He arrived at Golgotha, the soldiers deprived Him of those clothes, too, so His wounds were torn open yet again.

J. John 19:17; Matthew 27:32

He had to carry His own cross, which would have been a heavy burden, especially for a tired and beaten man. Simon of Cyrene was also compelled to carry it, so it is possible, although not certain, that He stumbled. If He did, and His hands were tied to the horizontal portion of the cross, which is the historically accurate way to view the incident, then nothing could have prevented Him from striking His face on the ground.

K. Mark 15:25; Psalm 22:16

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are so objectively dispassionate in plainly stating He was crucified. Their earliest readers would have understood that nails were driven through His hands and feet.

L. Summary

1. **His Head** was crowned with thorns and those thorns were beaten deeper with a reed.
2. **His Face** smacked the dirt when He fell to pray. His face was harmed when capillaries ruptured, causing Him to sweat blood. His face was battered when He was slapped countless times on three occasions.
3. **His Hands** were sore from being fettered, and, so much worse than that, they were pierced with iron nails.
4. **His Arms** were tired from carrying the cross.
5. **His Back** was shredded by scourging and the pain intensified twice when clothes were removed from Him.
6. **His Feet** would have been weary from marching all over Jerusalem, and far more horrible, from being pierced with nails.