

Behold the man!



Ecce Homo, Antonio Ciseri 1871

The words were spoken by a heathen Roman governor to an evil Jewish mob, as he presented to them the pitiful figure, Jesus of Nazareth. The man stood before them as one who had for three years healed the sick, raised the dead, showed compassion to the unlovable, and offered hope to the left behind. And, now, beaten, disfigured, spat upon, and disgraced, he weakly stood before them in the mockery of royal robes and a crown of thorns. The Roman gestured and shouted to the crowd in Latin, *Ecce Homo*—“Behold the man.”

Did the Roman, Pontius Pilate, present the man of sorrows to the mob out of contempt? Or was his motive to create pity in their hearts so that some might cry for mercy? We do not know. What we do know is that the governor proclaimed the man innocent, but nevertheless turned him over to be executed. A murderer was pardoned in his place.

Have you ever stood alone? Figuratively naked and wounded? Helplessly and hopelessly caught up in another person's game? Humbled and humiliated? Betrayed by others? Rejected? Weak? With nowhere to turn for help?

Jesus knows you! He's been there too. He understands. He loves you. And he is with you in those times. Trust in him.

He didn't fight back. He didn't demand his rights. He didn't seek revenge. He simply trusted that his Heavenly Father would somehow work it all out.

“For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God...To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps...When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:19-25)

“Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.... ‘Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.’ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.... For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.” (1 Peter 3:8-18)

Behold, the Man! Look to Him—live in Him!

Scott