

# The Humiliation of Jesus

In her classic autobiography, *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom shares a story of humiliation at the hands of her Nazi captors at Ravensbrück Concentration Camp that wrought not despair, but thanksgiving and praise:

*Fridays – the recurrent humiliation of medical inspection. The hospital corridor in which we waited was unheated, and a fall chill had settled into the walls. Still, we were forbidden even to wrap ourselves in our own arms, but had to maintain our erect, hands-at-sides position as we filed slowly past a phalanx of grinning guards. How there could have been any pleasure in the sight of these stick-thin legs and hunger-bloated stomachs I could not imagine.*

*Surely there is no more wretched sight than the human body unloved and uncared for. Nor could I see the necessity for the complete undressing. When we finally reached the examining room, a doctor looked down each throat, another – a dentist presumably – at our teeth, a third in between each finger. And that was all. We trooped again down the long, cold corridor and picked up our X-marked dresses at the door.*

*But it was on one of these mornings while we were waiting, shivering, in the corridor, that yet another page in the Bible leapt into life for me.*

*He hung naked on the cross.*

*I had not known – I had not thought. The paintings, the carved crucifixes showed at the least a scrap of cloth. But this, I suddenly knew, was the respect and reverence of the artist.*

*But oh – at the time itself, on that other Friday morning – there had been no reverence. No more than I saw in the faces around us now.*

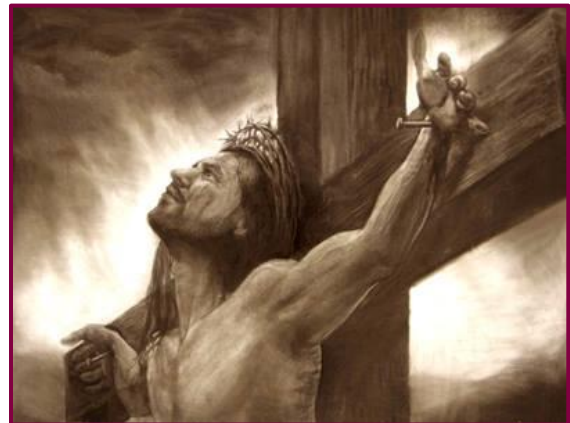
*I leaned toward Betsie, ahead of me in the line. Her shoulder blades stood out sharp and thin beneath her blue-mottled skin.*

*“Betsie, they took His clothes, too.”*

*Ahead of me I heard a little gasp. “Oh, Corrie. And I never thanked Him.”*

What a sobering story Corrie ten Boom shared.

(more)



We needn't have respect, nor honor, nor comfort, nor plenty to experience gratitude and thankfulness. We need only remember what Christ has done on our behalf.

*And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:8-11 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter