

INSTRUMENTS of SUFFERING!

“For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.” Psalm 22:16

Traditionally, the Romans attached criminals to their crosses with ropes; using spikes was an added dimension of cruelty. Setting a crown of thorns – sharp enough and strong enough to literally dig beneath the skin – onto Jesus' head was a further act of hateful malice, completely unnecessary and without precedent. The cross was painful enough, but to crucify this “criminal,” the Romans made it altogether excruciating.

Envision the mallet used to drive the spikes into the wood of the cross. Imagine being the one who drove in the nails. The mallet provided the force, and the spikes provided the edge. Together, they cut through the skin, crushed bone, and sliced through nerve endings. Jesus felt the pain. There was no anesthesia, no pain-killers, nothing to lessen the sheer agony of two cruel instruments of torture.

Think about the crown of thorns; consider the insult it represented to Jesus' rightful authority, and the way forcing it onto His body must have sent pain from the top of Jesus' head down to the bottom of His pierced feet. The soldiers were so deliberate in spacing out His wounds, there was no spot on the body of Jesus that didn't hurt. The pain was constant.

Thought for the day:

Picture the crown of thorns being pushed down on the head of Christ and the spikes being driven into His body - **for you!**

Prayer

Jesus, it is overwhelming to think about how Your body was beaten and crushed on my behalf. Thank you for being pierced for me. I am truly sorry Jesus for the sins I have committed that made your sacrifice necessary and so essential. Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to forgive others just the way You have forgiven me. In Jesus name, Amen.