In John 19:23-24 (NIV), we read:

> "When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the tunic remaining. The tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 'Let's not tear it,' they said to one another. 'Let's decide by lot who will get it.' This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that said, 'They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.' So this is what the soldiers did."

Theological Reflection:

The detail about Jesus' clothing is far more than a trivial mention of His possessions. The division of His garments and the gambling for His tunic fulfills

Psalm 22:18 (NIV):

> "They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my

> garment."

This prophecy, spoken by David centuries before Christ, is being realized in this moment at the cross. Jesus' clothing is not just a random item in the narrative; it serves as a living fulfillment of Scripture, pointing to His identity as the Messiah. His nakedness symbolizes the depth of His sacrifice—He is fully exposed to the world, both physically and spiritually.

Jesus was stripped of everything at the cross, symbolizing that He gave up all His rights, possessions, and honor for the sake of our salvation. The seamless tunic, which was undivided and woven from top to bottom, could be seen as a symbol of the unity and completeness of Christ's mission. It was His singular, unbroken sacrifice for humanity, unlike any other.

Why Was Jesus Naked on the Cross?

In the Roman crucifixion practice, criminals were publicly stripped naked as a means of humiliation, furthering their shame. This was intended to disgrace them in front of a crowd. But for Jesus, this wasn't just about public shame—it was a profound part of His

atonement. As

Isaiah 53:3 (NIV) states:

> "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem."

Jesus, the sinless Son of God, took on the shame of sin—though He Himself was without sin. In His nakedness, He bore our shame. Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) clarifies this further:

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> *The phrase "scorning its shame" reveals that Jesus did not just endure the physical pain of the cross, but He also endured the spiritual humiliation of being mocked and rejected by humanity.*

Why Did Jesus Allow This?

Have you ever wondered why Jesus allowed this immense shame, knowing He had the power to avoid it?

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) gives us the theological answer:

> "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

Jesus allowed Himself to be exposed, humiliated, and even forsaken, so that we might be reconciled to God. It was not a mistake or a random act—it was the ultimate act of love and sacrifice. He did it for you and me, to pay the price for our sins.

In Philippians 2:7-8 (NIV), we see the extent of Christ's humility:

> "Rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

This was the ultimate humiliation, but also the greatest act of love in human history. Jesus was willing to endure such humiliation to save us from eternal separation from God.

The Call to Follow Christ Boldly

Jesus endured this shame and humiliation so that we could be saved. How, then, can we be ashamed of Him?

Romans 1:16 (NIV) says:

> "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

Paul is declaring that the gospel—despite its seeming foolishness and humiliation to the world—is the very power of God for salvation. This should embolden us to stand firm in our faith and to boldly proclaim the message of Jesus, even in a world that mocks Him.

2 Timothy 1:8 (NIV) also exhorts us:

> "So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God."
> *We are called to follow Jesus, even when it means facing shame and persecution. Just as He endured for us, we too are called to endure for Him.*

The Consequences of Denying Christ

In Mark 8:38 (NIV), Jesus warns us:

> "If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels."

This is a serious warning. Jesus promises that if we are ashamed of Him now, He will be ashamed of us when He returns in glory. We must take this warning to heart. We cannot hide our faith or be silent when it comes to the gospel. The stakes are eternal.

The Invitation to Salvation

Jesus didn't hesitate to endure everything for our sake. Now, He calls us to follow Him. These are the last days, and He is coming soon. If you haven't yet repented and trusted in Him, today is the day.

Acts 2:38 (NIV) teaches:

> "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

This is the way to receive forgiveness for your sins and be reconciled to God. If you make this decision, the Holy Spirit will come to guide you in all truth.

If you're ready to make this commitment, contact us through the numbers below. We are here to help you in your journey toward salvation.

May the Lord bless you richly.

*Please share this good news with others.*

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