

all night upon the tree but should be buried the same day, lest the land be defiled. Therefore, the Jewish Law ordered the removal of the body at sunset.

However, we see here that the reason for the immediate disposal of the body was that it was the Pass-over feast and it was not seemingly the men should go up to the temple and pray with three dead men hanging on crosses shining in the sun. Therefore, they make a request (to Pilate) that he send soldiers and break their legs and to give their bodies burial. This was carried out with heavy iron mallets. They smashed the limbs of the crucified. This being the preparation for the sabbath or the high day as it was called unto them. They had great esteem that they would be thought of having to approach the sabbath the days of the unleavened bread with these still on the cross. But it seems to me that every sabbath day is a holy day and a good day but this one seemed to be a high day, to stand out among all of the others. They reckoned that this would be reproached if the bodies were left of the crosses. As they had known out of their laws of course, but they knew that strangers from all parts of the country were there at Jerusalem and it would have been an offense to them nor could they well bear the sight of Christ's crucified body. They made their petition to Pilate that

their bodies now as good as dead might be dispatched not by strangling or by beheading them but by the breaking of their legs. That is to produce more pain. These hypocrits certainly in their pretending are an abomination to us. These Jews giving great thought to the sabbath and yet gave little thought to righteousness and to justice. Now these Jews did not have in mind shortening the sufferings of those on the cross which would last for hours or days but they had here a special occasion in mind, the high day, the sabbath and this had been done before in the punishment of those who had been crucified the breaking of the legs or the bones by means of the club or a big hammer. This would not in itself bring death but the breaking of the bones was always followed by a sword or a spear which would immediately put an end to the remains of life. Thus the breaking of the bones was a sort of increase of punishment by way of compensation for its shortening by the final stroke that followed. We certainly are disturbed when we think about the punctuality and the care for the letter of the law about burial ~~the~~ and the high sabbath by those who had betrayed and crucified their Messiah on the first passover day. How terrible was the situation.

II. Soldiers of Cruelty Verse 32

Jesus was not only muted He was also abused. And He was subjected to every insult. When we think about the cruelty