



## Scripture Nugget: Divine Exchange

*For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake He became poor although He was rich, so that by His poverty you might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).*

For every divine grace Jesus merited for us, He earned it with His own suffering, pain, blood, sweat and tears. To be our personal Saviour, Jesus has to take on our sins. *For our sake He (God) made Him (Jesus) to be sin Who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).* Thus, the punishment due to our sins is meted out to Him and we are healed because of His wounds (cf. Isaiah 53:5).

To heal the sin of rejection, Jesus endured rejection even before His incarnate birth when there was no inn available for the Blessed Virgin Mary to give birth. In His public life on earth, Jesus suffered rejection and persecution even from Jewish religious leaders, the very people who should recognize Him for what He truly is: the long-awaited Messiah. To heal the sins of impurity of the flesh, Jesus endured the cruel scourging of His Body. Scourging was done with a short whip, a flagrum consisting of several leather strips with small, sharp lead balls tied to the ends of each leather strip designed to cause deep wounds when in use.

To break the bondage of human pride, Jesus was humiliated many times in public and made to wear a crown of thorns in a mocking coronation ceremony perpetrated by the Roman soldiers. On the Cross, Jesus was stripped of everything: His clothes, His dignity, His rights, His friends, His comfort. He, through Whom and for Whom the world was created (cf. Colossians 1:16), was in abject poverty so that we can have the abundance of divine graces.

## Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, to win my love and gain for me an eternity of joy and happiness, You obeyed to perfection the command of our Heavenly Father to assume human flesh so that You can bear the punishment due to my sins on Your own Body. You took the curse from my sins on Yourself when You allowed Your Body to be crucified on the wooden cross. For it is written in Scripture, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree" (cf. Galatians 3:13). In order to be my perfect Saviour, You were tempted in every way so that by Your sufferings, You proved obedience, which covers my disobedience, to the Heavenly Father while You were in the flesh (cf. Hebrews 5:8). You took away my sins and its condemnation and give me righteousness and eternal life. Because of You, I can stand fully justified, in Your righteousness before the throne of God as if I had never sinned! You alone are boundless love whilst I'm led by my pride. Pour Your love into my heart and let me be transformed. May I live each day in celebration of Your love in joyful anticipation of the day when I will finally attain the glorious, eternal inheritance You gained for me through Your Passion. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.