

## Forty Lashes

### BREAD

40. This is a number that appears throughout the Bible. From Noah in Genesis 7 to Paul in 2Cor 11, we see the number 40 many, many times. Two notable passages that deal with the number 40 are Deut 25 and 2Cor 11. Deut 25:2-3 says: If the guilty party deserves to be flogged, he will be flogged with the appropriate number of lashes for his crime. He may be flogged with 40 lashes, but no more. Note that this was a **Jewish** flogging. Paul received this flogging five times. 2Cor 11:24 says: Five times I received from the Jews 40 lashes minus one. Why would Paul say 40 minus one? Why not just say 39? The reason Paul said "minus one" was because the Jews were very legalistic. Instead of taking the chance of going over 40, they would administer 39 lashes ...just in case someone miscounted. Another reason is because the Jewish whip had three leather tails. They counted each tail of the whip by itself since each one was a lash. So with a three-tailed whip, they would stop after **13 whips**, that is, **39 lashes**. This is why Paul calls it 40 minus one.

On the other hand, the Romans did not have such a restriction on their scourging. They could whip and lash as many times as they pleased. On top of that, their whips were far worse than the Jewish ones. They put barbs, pieces of bone, and hooks on the ends of their whips. Who knows how many lashes Jesus received.

So far what I have given you are nothing but facts. These are NOT what I want you to be thinking about today as we partake of the Lord's Supper. What about the whipping Jesus went through? Was it a bunch of numbers we research today, or was it real? I tell you, to those standing there watching, it was painfully real! Was it about a whip with barbs and bone, or was it about God's unique Son's back being torn to shreds? Yes, **literally**, torn to shreds. Many of you have seen the Passion of the Christ movie. That scene will never be erased from **my** memory. I ask you: What was going through Jesus mind during each slap and pull of that whip?

I'm confident that he was thinking about **you and I**.

[Take your belt, folder it over, and smack the belt over and over to make very loud sounds.]

I can't even get through **X** whips. Jesus went through an unknown amount because he had **you and me** in His mind. On top of all this, Jesus' actual crucifixion has not even **begun** yet. How dare we take the scourging of Jesus lightly. It may be one simple verse in the Bible, but it needs to carry a lot of meaning to us.

By suffering to the extent He did, Jesus has proved that **He** truly loves **us**. By watching His **own Son** go through the suffering that He did, God has proved that **He** truly loves **us**.

### FRUIT of the VINE

Pray.