

# Lent devotions

## READ:

Mark 15:1-15 (click to open link)

## REFLECT:

Ever been at a game, really into it, really charged up and people start booing the ref or the ump? Ever been at a Husker game and the crowd is going nuts, they do the wave or start chanting "Go Big Red"? If so, you my friend were part of what is known in Latin as "mobile vulgus," the excitable crowd, a mob for short.

Often the mob is led by a relatively small group of people. They whip the rest of the people up, excite them, sometimes into a frenzy. The majority of the people probably do not know why they should be excited, they just are. They are yelling the same thing everyone else is whether it's "Jump" in Wisconsin, the tomahawk chop in Florida or Rock Chalk in Kansas. Does the uninformed, casual fan know what or why they're yelling if they're part of the crowd? Probably not. Are they excited? Almost certainly. "Crucify him" wasn't much different.

Today it's the yell squad or Harry Husker (anyone remember "Mad Mike"?) getting the crowd going. In Jesus' demise it was the Sanhedrin, a group of at least 20 leaders in the church assembled as the supreme religious organization. Charged with leading the church as the ruling body, these rabbis were followed more closely than the most massive jumbotron. If they said "Get Loud" or "Make some noise!" no one questioned. Too bad for Jesus as a man. In the larger picture, the fulfillment of the prophecy, it was the salvation of those who today, still follow.

Out of this awful, unjust, detestable thing came the redemption of our sins but today we're called to not be a part of the crowd. We're called to resist, to not be of this world and to leave the world to its own devices as Jesus did when he was accused. I'm afraid I don't always fulfill that call. Probably none of us do all the time. We are all flawed whether it's as a part of a mob or on our own. We all fall short but the promise and the story of Easter is, our punishment was taken by Jesus, then and for all time. We are eternally blessed to be part of that crowd.

## RESPOND:

- Have you ever been falsely accused of something?
- Has anyone ever trumped up the charges against you just to make you look worse?
- How can enduring through the gossip, the false accusations, the threats, and hardness, help make you stronger in the long run?