

One Who was Despised and Condemned

Words to Know:

Pilate: the Roman governor of Israel

Barabbas: a Jewish murderer

God's Word (Mark 15:1-20)

Jesus Is Brought to Pilate

¹ It was very early in the morning. The chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, made a decision. They tied Jesus up and led him away. Then they handed him over to Pilate.

² "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"Yes. It is just as you say," Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests brought many charges against him. ⁴ So Pilate asked him again, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they charge you with."

⁵ But Jesus still did not reply. Pilate was amazed.

⁶ It was the usual practice at the Passover Feast to let one prisoner go free. The people could choose the one they wanted. ⁷ A man named Barabbas was in prison. He was there with some other people who had fought against the country's rulers. They had committed murder while they were fighting against the rulers. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹ "Do you want me to let the king of the Jews go free?" asked Pilate. ¹⁰ He knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd. So the crowd asked Pilate to let Barabbas go free instead.

¹² "Then what should I do with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

¹³ "Crucify him!" the crowd shouted.

¹⁴ "Why? What wrong has he done?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵ Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd. So he let Barabbas go free. He ordered that Jesus be whipped. Then he handed him over to be nailed to a cross.

The Soldiers Make Fun of Jesus

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace. It was called the Praetorium. They called together the whole company of soldiers.

¹⁷ The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus. Then they twisted thorns together to make a crown. They placed it on his head. ¹⁸ They began to call out to him, "We honor you, king of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again they hit him on the head with a stick. They spit on him. They fell on their knees and pretended to honor him.

²⁰ After they had made fun of him, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to nail him to a cross.

Questions:

1. Why didn't Jesus defend himself before his accusers?
2. Who was controlling the crowds? (*See verses 1, 10-11.*)
3. Imagine you are Pilate. What do you hope the crowd will do when you give them a choice? How do you feel as you watch the soldiers take Jesus away?
4. Imagine you are one of the soldiers who is mocking Jesus. Why are you treating him so badly? Who do you think he is?
5. Why do you suppose Jesus allowed the people to treat him this way? Could he have stopped them if he wanted to?

Additional verses to think about:

2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹ Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.

1 John 4:9-10: ⁹ How did God show his love for us? He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. ¹⁰ What is love? It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.

1 Peter 2:22-24

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."