

Lesson 7: Injustice

Today's Bible Story

After Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the chief priests and scribes brought him before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, accusing Jesus of rebellion. Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Those are your words!" Jesus answered. And when the chief priests and leaders brought their charges against him, he did not say a thing. Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear what crimes they say you have done?" But Jesus did not say anything, and the governor was greatly amazed.

Then Pilate had an idea. During Passover it was a custom for the governor to free a prisoner chosen by the people. At that time a well-known terrorist named Barabbas was in jail. So when the crowd came together, Pilate asked them, "Which prisoner do you want me to set free? Do you want me to free Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate knew the leaders had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous.

While Pilate was judging the case, his wife sent him a message. It said, "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man. I have had bad dreams because of him."

But the chief priests and the leaders convinced the crowds to ask for Barabbas to be set free and for Jesus to be killed. Pilate asked the crowd again, "Which of these two men do you want me to set free?" "Barabbas!" they shouted.

Pilate asked them, "What am I to do with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?" They all yelled, "Nail him to a cross!" Pilate answered, "But what crime has he done?" But they only yelled louder, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate saw that there was nothing he could do and that the people were starting to riot. So he took some water and washed his hands in front of them and said, "I won't have anything to do with killing this man. You are to blame!"

Pilate set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.



From Matthew 27:11-26

Bible Rhyme

After Jesus was arrested,
Pilate put him to the test.
"Are you a king?" he asked the Lord.
But Jesus didn't say a word.
At that time there was in prison
another man accused of treason.
Pilate offered them a choice,
but the crowd yelled with one voice:
"If you really want to please us,
free Barabbas, then kill Jesus."
Of this problem to be rid,
that's what Pontius Pilate did.



Look up Matthew 27 in your Bible.

**Match the Bible verses below with the description of what happened in that verse.
Draw a line between the verse numbers and the correct descriptions.**

a) Verse 11

For the first time, Pilate asked the assembled crowd if they would rather have him release Jesus or Barabbas.

b) Verse 12-13

Jesus was brought before the governor, Pontius Pilate, who asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews.

c) Verse 14

Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, who made many charges against him.

d) Verse 15-16

Pilate remembered that in honor of the Passover, the governor had the custom of releasing one prisoner for the crowd.

e) Verses 17-18

Pilate asked the crowd what he should do with Jesus, the Christ. The crowd shouted for Jesus to be killed on a cross.

f) Verse 19

Jesus stayed silent and gave no answer to the charges against him, which amazed the governor.

g) Verse 20

Because of a dream she had, Pilate's wife sent a message to her husband, telling him to have nothing to do with Jesus.

h) Verse 21

The chief priests and the elders stirred up the crowd against Jesus and encouraged the people to vote for Barabbas.

i) Verse 22-23

Pilate released the prisoner Barabbas, giving the order for Jesus to be whipped, and then taken out to be crucified.

j) Verse 24-25

For the second time, Pilate asked the crowd which of the two men to release; the crowd asked for Barabbas to be set free.

k) Verse 26

Pilate washed his hands saying that he was not to blame for Jesus' death; instead, the crowd accepted the blame.

When you have all the verses matched, read the descriptive sentences in the proper order to hear the whole story in order, from start to finish.