

*Biblical Drama based on Matthew 27:11-26**Character Parts: Narrators 1-9, Priest, Pilate, Elder, Jesus, Soldier, Crowd*

Narrator 1: After Jesus was arrested in the Garden and condemned by the Jewish Council, he was brought before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. (*The soldier brings in Jesus.*)

Priest: Governor, we have brought this man to you for judgment under Roman law.

Pilate: Why? What has he done?

Elder: He has claimed to be the Son of God! As if he is equal to God! That is blasphemy!

Pilate: That's a religious matter. I don't care about your God. Take him and judge him yourself.

Priest: But, sir, he is stirring up trouble!

Elder: His disciples are spreading lies! They say he is the Messiah, a new king!

Pilate: A king, you say?

Priest: Yes sir! He has claimed to be king!

Pilate: (*to Jesus*) Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: You have said so.

Elder: That's not true. He's a liar! He's not to be trusted!

Narrator 2: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. So Pilate continued his questioning.

Pilate: Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?

Narrator 3: But Jesus still gave no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Narrator 4: Now at the feast the governor used to have the custom of releasing for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted.

Pilate: (*to the soldier*) Who do we have in prison right now?

Soldier: There is that murderer and rebel named Barabbas. But he's a murderer. He killed some of our soldiers in the recent riot.

Pilate: Bring him out here, and set him before the people along with this Jesus.

Narrator 5: The murderer Barabbas was brought before Pilate. While the people were gathered, Pilate addressed the people.

Pilate: (*to the people*) Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?

Narrator 6: Pilate knew that it was out of envy that the Council had delivered him up. But while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him.

Wife: Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.

Narrator 7: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Crowd: Barabbas!

Pilate: Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?

Crowd: Let him be crucified!

Pilate: Why? What evil has he done?

Crowd: Let him be crucified!

Narrator 8: When Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying:

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Crowd: His blood be on us and on our children!

Narrator 9: Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him over to be crucified.