

GOOD FRIDAY (based on Mark 15:1-15)

Early in the morning, the chief priests, the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole council had their plan ready. They tied Jesus' hands and led him away to hand him over to **Pilate**. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "The words are yours."

The chief priests were accusing Jesus of all sorts of things so Pilate asked him again, "Aren't you going to say anything? Listen to all they are saying about you."

Again, Jesus refused to say a word and Pilate was amazed.

At every Passover festival Pilate usually set free one prisoner. At that time a man named Barabbas was in prison. He had committed a murder during a riot. When the crowd gathered Pilate asked, "Do you want me to set the King of the Jews free or Barabbas?"

He knew that the chief priests had handed Jesus over because they were jealous of him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd and got them to ask for Barabbas to be set free.

Pilate spoke again to the crowd, "What do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

"But what crime has he committed?" Pilate asked.

They shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus **whipped** and handed him over to be crucified.

THE SOLDIERS (based on Mark 15:16-21)

The soldiers took Jesus away to the inner part of the palace, the Praetorium and called together the rest of the company.

They put a **purple robe** on Jesus, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. Then they began to salute him saying, "Hail King of the Jews!"

They beat him over the head with a stick and spat on him. They went down on their knees and bowed to him.

When they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.