



Week 8, Day 1

Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. “Are you the king of the Jews?” the governor asked him.

Jesus replied, “You have said it.”

But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. “Don’t you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?” Pilate demanded. But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor’s surprise.

Now it was the governor’s custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted. This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas. As the crowds gathered before Pilate’s house that morning, he asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you— Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: “Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night.”

Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death.

Matthew 27:11-20

At The Ridge, our mission is to help people find and follow Jesus. As you read the next portion of this devotional, consider the FIND comments if you are exploring faith or helping others explore their faith. Use the FOLLOW section to help you take steps if you are currently following Jesus.

FIND: The leading priest and elders made accusations against Jesus, yet He remained silent. When do you need to listen and have better self-control in what you say to others?

FOLLOW: When do you need to show better judgment in your actions?