



Week 8, Day 2

So the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?”

The crowd shouted back, “Barabbas!”

Pilate responded, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

“Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?”

But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”

Pilate saw that he wasn’t getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. The responsibility is yours!”

And all the people yelled back, “We will take responsibility for his death—we and our children!”

So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Some of the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!” And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

Matthew 27:21-31

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: Jesus could have retaliated while being beaten, yet he responded with peace. How can you better respond with peace in the midst of difficulty?

FOLLOW: Jesus had joy knowing the suffering he would endure would save us from death. Where do you need to have joy in your life despite the adversity you are experiencing?