

From the Courtroom to the Cross

Matthew 27:19-38

Jesus had to have a trial. His enemies couldn't just kill Him. So they took Him to their ruler. Many people came to complain about Jesus. They were hoping to kill Him.

Next, Jesus was taken to Pilate, the governor. Pilate asked Jesus questions. He listened carefully to what Jesus said. He didn't think Jesus should die.

But the crowd wanted Him to die. They kept calling "Kill Him! Kill Him!"

Pilate gave Jesus to the soldiers. They took off His clothes. They beat Him. Then they put a purple robe on Him. Someone made a crown out of thorny twigs. They put it on His head. The thorns pricked Him badly. It hurt. Blood trickled down His face...for your sins and mine.

Then they put a reed in Jesus' hand. They were pretending He was king. They bowed down and called, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

They led Him away to be killed. Jesus was made to carry the cross on which He would die. Jesus became so weak from all of the beatings they had given Him that He couldn't carry His cross any more.

The soldiers forced a man named Simon to carry the cross for Jesus. When they came to a hill called Calvary, Simon laid the cross down. Jesus was laid on it. Then the soldiers pounded huge nails into each hand and both feet. Then the cross with Jesus on it was put into a big hole. The cross was pushed high into the air.

There hung Jesus. He was nailed to a cross of wood. The soldiers put a sign over His head. It said: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Bible Verse to Learn

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (John 19:30).