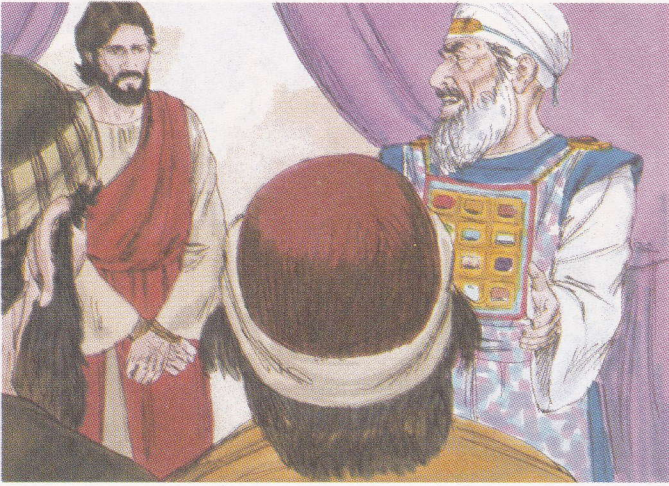
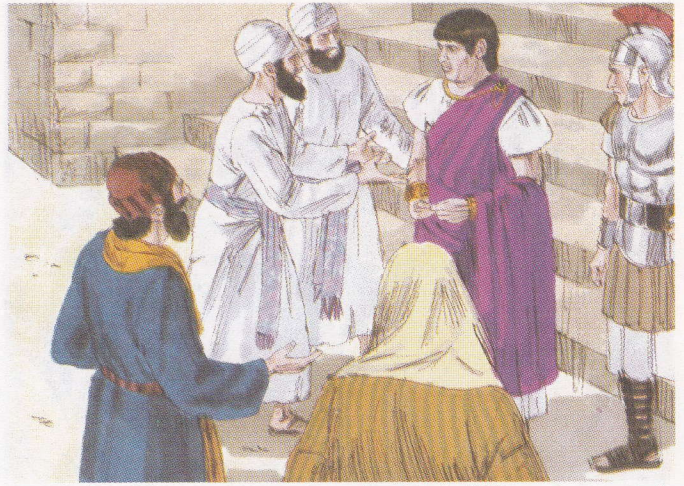


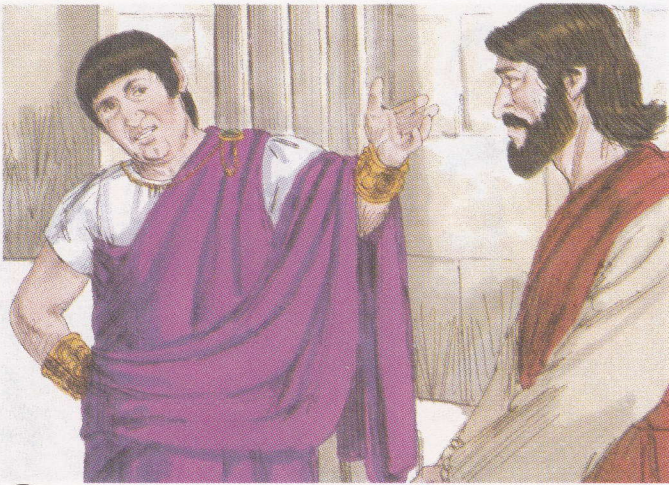
# Jesus' Trial Before Pilate



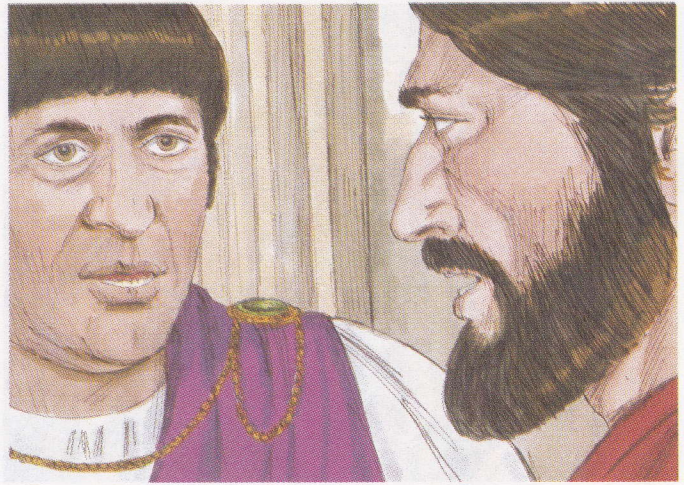
**1** Early the next morning after questioning Jesus, the Jewish authorities took him to the palace of Pilate, the Roman governor. They would not go inside for fear of being defiled.



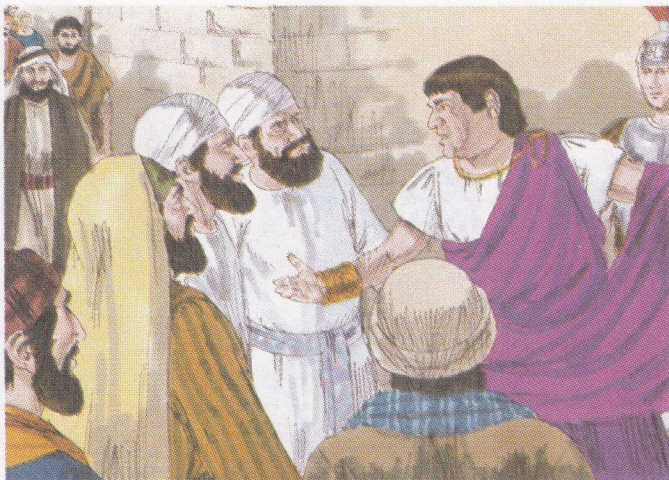
**2** So Pilate came out and asked, "What charges do you bring against this man?" The priests said, "If he were not a criminal, we would not have brought him. But we cannot execute anyone."



**3** Pilate went back inside the palace and questioned Jesus. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked. Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. It is from another place."



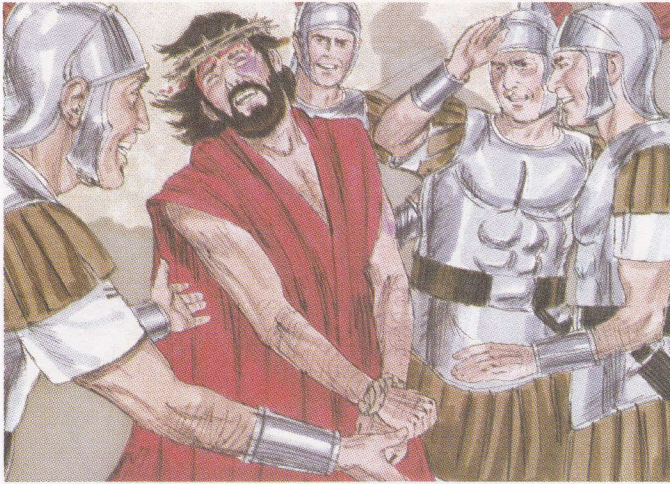
**4** "Then you are a king!" said Pilate. Jesus said, "Yes, I am a king. For this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth." "What is truth?" Pilate asked.



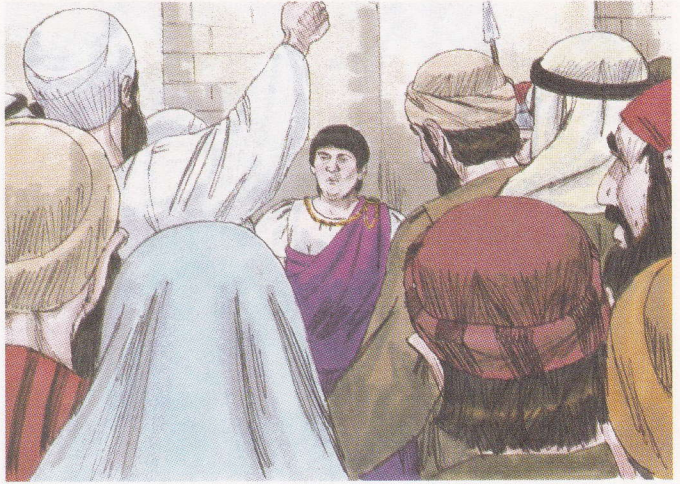
**5** He went out and said to the people, "I find no basis for a charge against Jesus. But as is my custom, I will release one prisoner at the Passover. Shall I release 'the king of the Jews'?"



**6** The crowd shouted, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" (Barabbas was a Jew who had been arrested for taking part in a rebellion.)



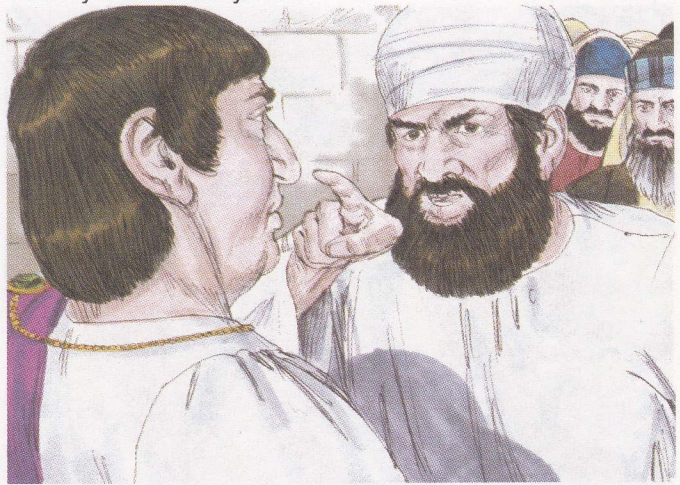
**7** Then Pilate had Jesus whipped. The soldiers put a crown of thorns on his head and put a scarlet robe on him. They said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they slapped his face.



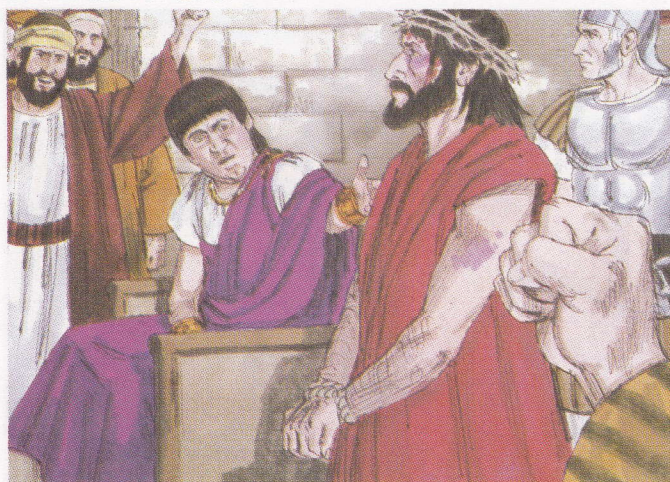
**8** Again Pilate said, "Look, I find no fault with this man." When Jesus was brought out wearing the crown of thorns and the scarlet robe, the crowd shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"



**9** But Pilate said, "You take him and crucify him. I find no basis for a charge against him." The priests said, "Our law says he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."



**10** Pilate was even more afraid. He tried to set Jesus free, but the priests said, "If you free him, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."



**11** Then Pilate sat on his judgment seat and brought Jesus to him. "Here is your king!" he said to the people. "Take him away," they shouted. "Crucify him!"



**12** "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. The chief priests said, "We have no king but Caesar." So finally Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.