

Jesus' Arrest and Trial

1. After Jesus had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, he was led off to the house of the High Priest Caiphas. The Sanhedrin were meeting there. They wanted to put Jesus to death, so they tried to find some people who would tell lies about him in court. At last, two men came forward and said, "This man claimed that he would tear down God's temple and build it again in three days."

2. The high priest stood up and asked Jesus, "Why don't you say something in your own defence?" But Jesus did not answer. So the high priest said, "Tell us, are you the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Son of Most High God?"



Jesus answered. "I Am." The high priest then tore his robe and cried out: "Blasphemy! This man is insulting God! We don't need any more witnesses! You have heard what he said!" Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "You think you are the Messiah! So tell us - who hit you?!!"

3. All the Sanhedrin decided that Jesus should be put to death, but they didn't have the authority to put a man to death themselves. So early next morning, they tied Jesus up and led him away to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. When Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews? Are these accusations true?" But Jesus did not say anything, and the governor was greatly amazed. He did not feel qualified to settle arguments about Messiahs and the Jewish religion, so Pilate decided to send Jesus on to King Herod, who was staying in Jerusalem that week.



4. King Herod was delighted to see Jesus, as he had heard about him, and hoped to see Jesus perform a miracle. Jesus however, remained silent before him. So King Herod gave him to his soldiers, to make fun of him. They stripped off Jesus' clothes and put a purple robe on him. They made a crown out of thorn branches and placed it on his head, and they put a stick in his right hand. The soldiers knelt down and pretended to

worship him. They made fun of him and shouted, "Hey, you, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on him. They took the stick from him and beat him on the head with it. And when they had finished mocking him, they sent him back to Pontius Pilate, who put him back in prison.



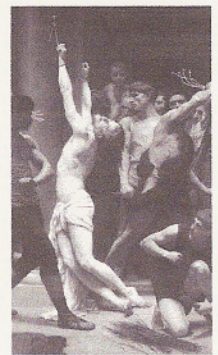
5.

6. 5. Pilate still felt uncomfortable about sentencing Jesus. He remembered that there was a Passover custom, where the governor always freed a prisoner chosen by the people. At that time a well-known terrorist called Barabbas was also in jail at the same time as Jesus. So Pilate gathered the crowd outside his palace, and asked them, "Which prisoner do you want me to set free? Barabbas or Jesus?"



7.

8. 6. But the chief priests of the Pharisees and Sadducees persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas to be set free and for Jesus to be killed. So when Pilate asked the crowd again, "Which of these two men do you want me to set free?" they replied: "Barabbas!". Pilate asked them, "What am I to do with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?" They shouted, "Crucify him!" Pilate answered, "But what crime has he done?" "Crucify him!" they shouted even louder.



9.

7. Pilate saw that there was nothing he could do so he took some water and washed his hands in front of them and said, "I won't have anything to do with killing this man. You are the ones responsible!" He set Barabbas free and ordered Jesus to be whipped, and then to carry his own cross to Golgotha, to be crucified.

