

Good Friday

19 1-3 So Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers, having braided a crown from thorns, set it on his head, threw a purple robe over him, and approached him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they greeted him with slaps in the face.

4-5 Pilate went back out again and said to them, "I present him to you, but I want you to know that I do not find him guilty of any crime." Just then Jesus came out wearing the thorn crown and purple robe.

Pilate announced, "Here he is: the Man."

6 When the high priests and police saw him, they shouted in a frenzy, "Crucify! Crucify!"

Pilate told them, "You take him. You crucify him. I find nothing wrong with him."

7 The Jews answered, "We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God."

8-9 When Pilate heard this, he became even more scared. He went back into the palace and said to Jesus, "Where did you come from?"

Jesus gave no answer.

10 Pilate said, "You won't talk? Don't you know that I have the authority to pardon you, and the authority to—crucify you?"

11 Jesus said, "You haven't a shred of authority over me except what has been given you from heaven. That's why the one who betrayed me to you has committed a far greater fault."

12 At this, Pilate tried his best to pardon him, but the Jews shouted him down: "If you pardon this man, you're no friend of Caesar's. Anyone setting himself up as 'king' defies Caesar."

13-14 When Pilate heard those words, he led Jesus outside. He sat down at the judgment seat in the area designated Stone Court (in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*). It was the preparation day for Passover. The hour was noon. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king."

15 They shouted back, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said, "I am to crucify your king?"

The high priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar."

16-19 Pilate caved in to their demand. He turned him over to be crucified.

They took Jesus away. Carrying his cross, Jesus went out to the place called Skull Hill (the name in Hebrew is *Golgotha*), where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a sign and had it placed on the cross. It read:

JESUS THE NAZARENE
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

42 So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it.

John 19. 1-19, 42. from The Message

Have you ever been at an event with lots of other people?

How did you feel?

How do you think Pilate felt about his 'authority' in this encounter?

What challenge does Jesus give us in this passage?

How will you respond?

What picture of Jesus are you seeing in this reading?

You may want to write your thoughts about this down. It is called journal-ing and it is very 'in' at the moment; or you may well not. Either is fine, after all this is your journey.

There are other readings set for today if you want to read some more.
Isaiah 52.13-53.12: Psalm 22: Hebrews 10.16-25.

A Prayer

**Let me absorb the unfolding scene...
see and hear as if I was there
in the flesh -
sensitised and raw;**

**the Friend, betrayed;
the Peacemaker, arrested;
the |Faithful, denied;
the Innocent, accused;
the Blameless, condemned;
the Gentle, abused;
the Healer, assaulted;
the Liberator, nailed.**

Life put to death.

The Lamb sacrificed.

For me.

Was all of this really for me?

**Let me see and hear
and feel again,
and offer my heart in return.**

Karen Campbell

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