

Matthew 27:11-22
A Criminal for a King

Our glorious King ...

I. Under Pontius Pilate

A. Amazing Exchanges

B. Atrocious Exchange

II. He Suffered

A. Indignity

B. Brutality

III. For Me

A. My Guilt

B. For His Grace

... on death row.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why did the Jewish religious leaders take Jesus to a Roman governor?
2. Could Pilate find anything that Jesus was guilty of?
3. Why should Pilate have listened to his wife?
4. What were the people yelling?
5. Why was Jesus willing to go to the cross?

Name Recognition

His name has been confessed for thousands of years and continues to be confessed by millions of Christians around the world. His name is distinguished by being included in the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed – two confessions we use in our own liturgy. But his notorious name is not confessed as a praise like we do with the glorious name of our King Jesus. Imagine having your claim to fame in history being the one under whom Jesus Christ suffered. Such is the case with this despicable, weaselly, vacillating Roman governor Pontius Pilate. Wash his hands as he may, his immense guilt remained, his name is forever tarnished, and his eternal state is even worse. Vile and culpable as he was, we need to keep in mind that he was instrumental in expediting something that had to do with our sin, not his. He is included in our confessions due to the fact that it was under his jurisdiction, at that particular time in history, that Jesus' trial took place. His complicity with the leaders facilitated the crucifixion of Jesus. It would be bizarre to be thankful for Pilate. But we can be thankful for the end result of his decisive indecision, which was, Jesus willingly going to the cross. Therefore, in the same creed that mention that disturbing name, we confess with confidence "I believe in the forgiveness of sins." We may repulse at the name of Pilate, but rejoice in the glorious name of our King and Savior Jesus!