

**A Pilate declares Jesus “King of the Jews.” Mark 15:1-15.**

- ❖ Pontius Pilate was the Roman official who had to authorize the death of Jesus. Everyone knew of his cruelty and unscrupulousness ( Luke 13:1). However, he publicly acknowledged: “I find no crime in him” (Jn. 18:38). The Sanhedrin's plan seemed doomed to failure.
- ❖ They had found Jesus guilty of blasphemy for declaring himself the Messiah (Mark 14:61-64). Since the Messiah was destined to be the King of Israel, that was the accusation they presented before Pilate.
- ❖ Jesus neither denied nor accepted the accusation, but he made it clear to Pilate that he did not aspire to rule an earthly kingdom (Mark 15:2; John 18:33-37).
- ❖ Pilate used this accusation to mock the Jewish leaders: “Do you want me to kill your king?” However, he capitulated before them by punishing Jesus and freeing a real evildoer (Mark 15:8-15).

**B The soldiers prostrate themselves before the “King of the Jews.” Mark 15:16-20.**

- ❖ Before being crucified, the prisoners were stripped naked and subjected to a cruel flogging. The soldier beat until he was tired.
- ❖ Knowing the accusation against Jesus, the soldiers decided to carry out a parody to ridicule him. They placed a “crown” on him, put a “royal mantle” on him, gave him a “scepter,” sat him on a “throne,” and made “obeisances” to him as if he were Caesar (Mark 15:17-19). ; Mt. 27:28-29).
- ❖ For them it was a game. A cruel game. Although they could not see a king in Jesus, some ended up recognizing him as the Son of God. Without knowing it, they were paying tribute to their true King.

**C The crowd calls Jesus “King of Israel.” Mark 15:21-32.**

- ❖ Exhausted by fasting and scourging, Jesus was unable to carry his own cross. A compassionate foreigner was forced to carry it in his place (Mark 15:21).
- ❖ Like a lamb being led to the slaughterhouse, Jesus, without any complaint, allowed himself to be led to Calvary; they would undress him; they placed him on the cross; They will nail their hands and feet; and they would lift him up high.
- ❖ As an act of mercy, a soldier offered him a drug to cloud his mind. But Jesus rejected this gesture. He would not let anything prevent him from consciously and voluntarily surrendering to the redemptive act (Mark 15:23).
- ❖ Once again, he was the victim of ridicule. Like the soldiers, the Jews ironically recognized Jesus as the Messiah. They accepted that He was able to save (Mark 15:31), and seemed willing to believe in Him if He saved Himself (Mark 15:32).
- ❖ But, if Jesus was saved, both they and we would be condemned (Mark 15:30).

**D The centurion declares Jesus “Son of God.” Mark 15:33-41.**

- ❖ Jesus was crucified at 9 in the morning. Around 12 noon darkness came over the land. At 3 p.m., Jesus died. But, shortly before he died, Jesus cried out to his Father with the words of Psalm 22 (Mark 15:33-34).
- ❖ Few realized how Jesus fulfilled this messianic psalm to the letter. The majority decided to misinterpret his words, confusing the Aramaic “ Eloi ” with a call to Elijah (Mark 15:35).

**E Joseph of Arimathea asks for the body of Jesus. Mark 15:42-47.**

- ❖ The evangelists make it clear that Jesus really died on the cross. It wasn't a faint or a catalepsy. The Romans knew how to differentiate a crucified person who was *apparently* dead from one who was *really* dead (Mark 15:44-45). As if that were not enough, the Jews themselves incited a soldier to pierce their heart with a spear (Jn. 19:33-34).
- ❖ After death, a rich, influential man and respected member of the Sanhedrin appears on the scene: Joseph of Arimathea (Mark 15:43). He did for Jesus what his disciples were incapable of doing: he asked Pilate for the body; bought a new shroud; and offered his own tomb to house the body of Jesus (Mark 15:46).
- ❖ Several women (Matthew and Mark only mention two) were eyewitnesses to the burial (Mark 15:46-47; Luke 23:55). They would also be the first witnesses of his resurrection (Mark 16:1-2).