

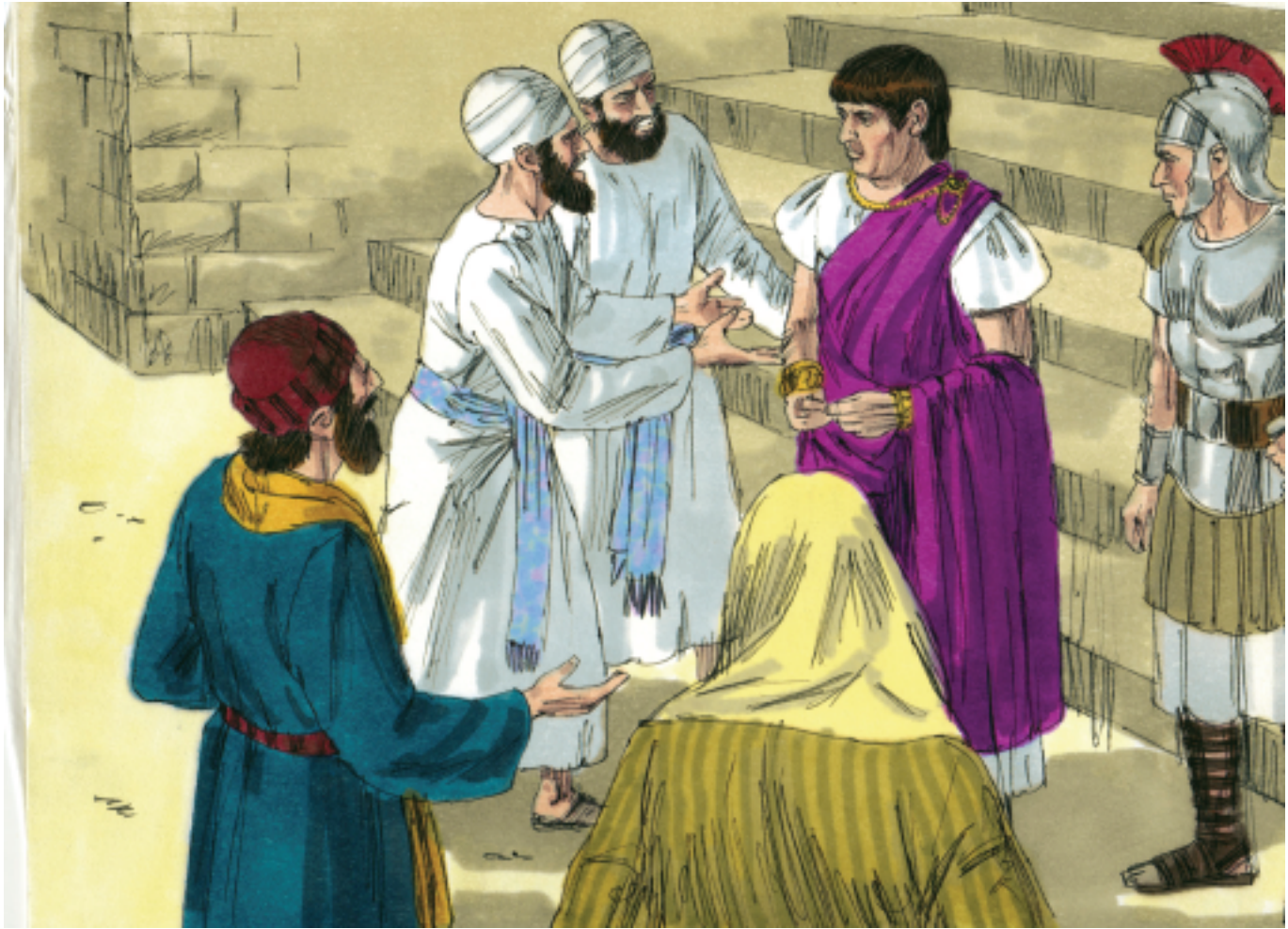
# focus

A 21 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN  
PREPARING HEARTS FOR EASTER

DAY 17:

Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:28-19:15



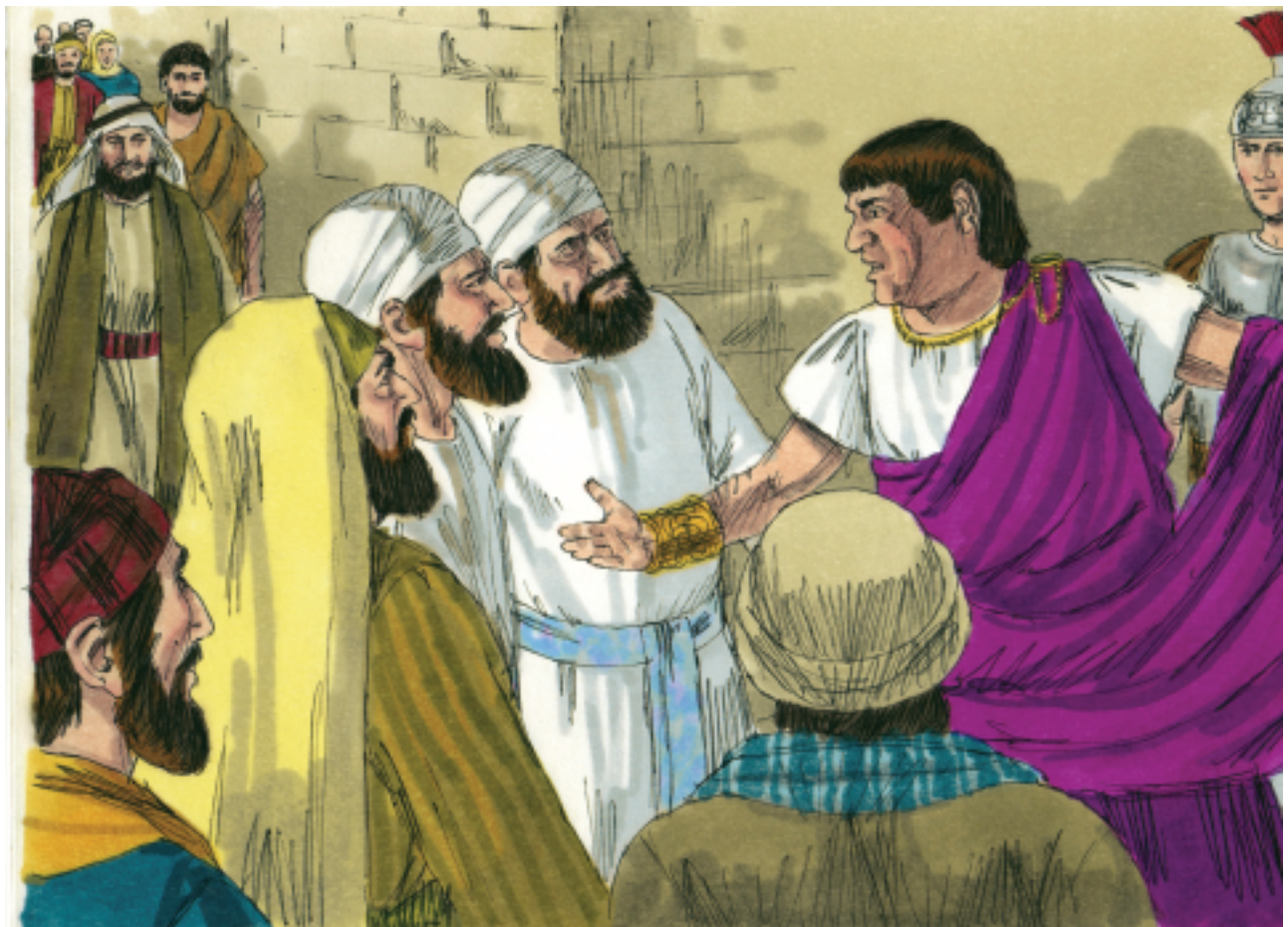
On the night Jesus was arrested, they took him to the high priest. But the religious leaders didn't have the power to punish him the way they wanted to, so they took him to the Roman governor, Pilate.

When the Jewish leaders brought Jesus before Pilate, he asked, "Why are you accusing this man of?"

“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have brought him to you. Just trust us!”

Pilate said, “Go judge him by your own law. Why are you bothering me?”

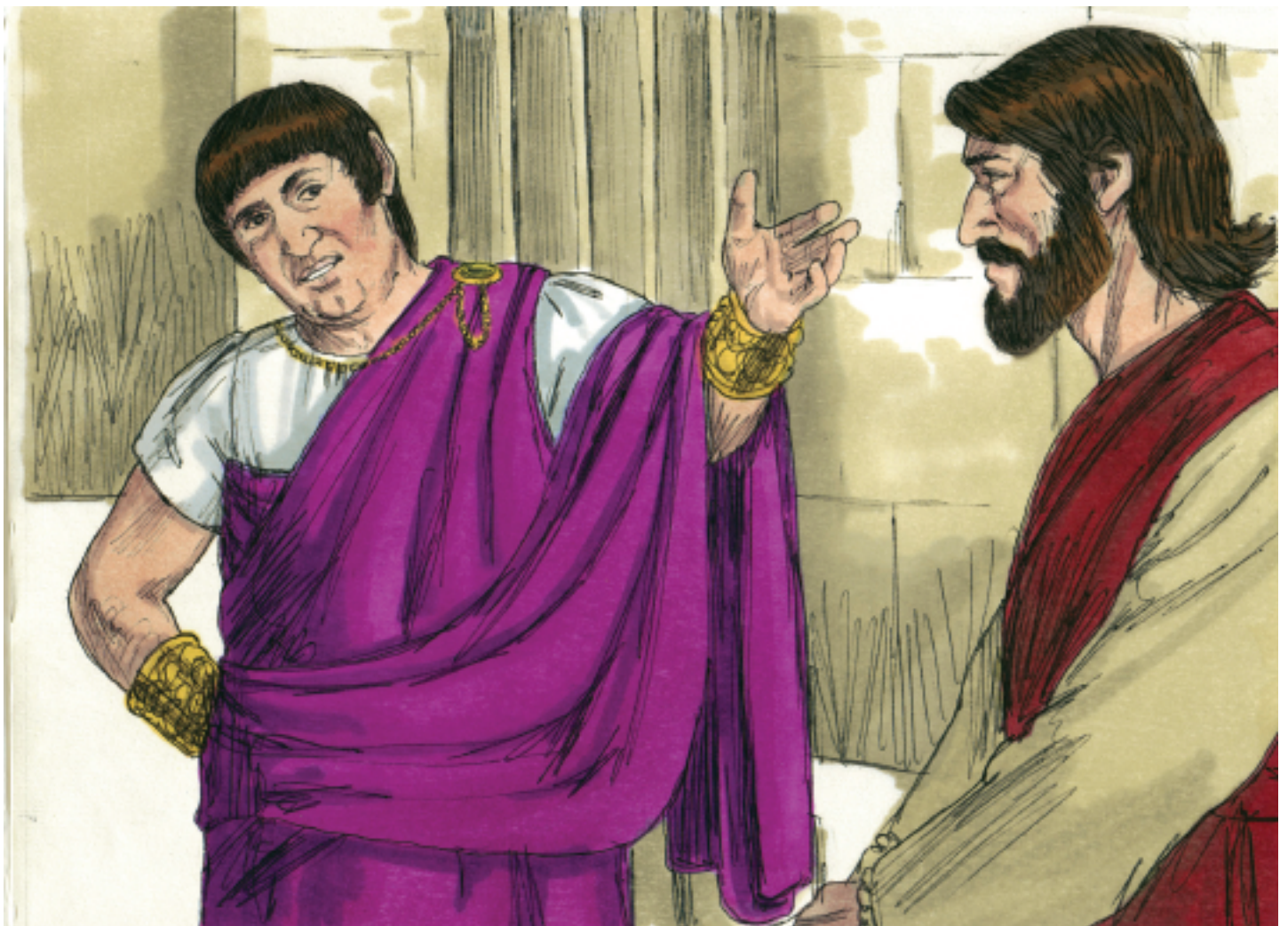
“We want to kill this man, but we aren’t allowed to,” they objected. “We want you to put this man to death! He is saying that he is the king of the Jews. Isn’t that a crime that you can punish him for?”

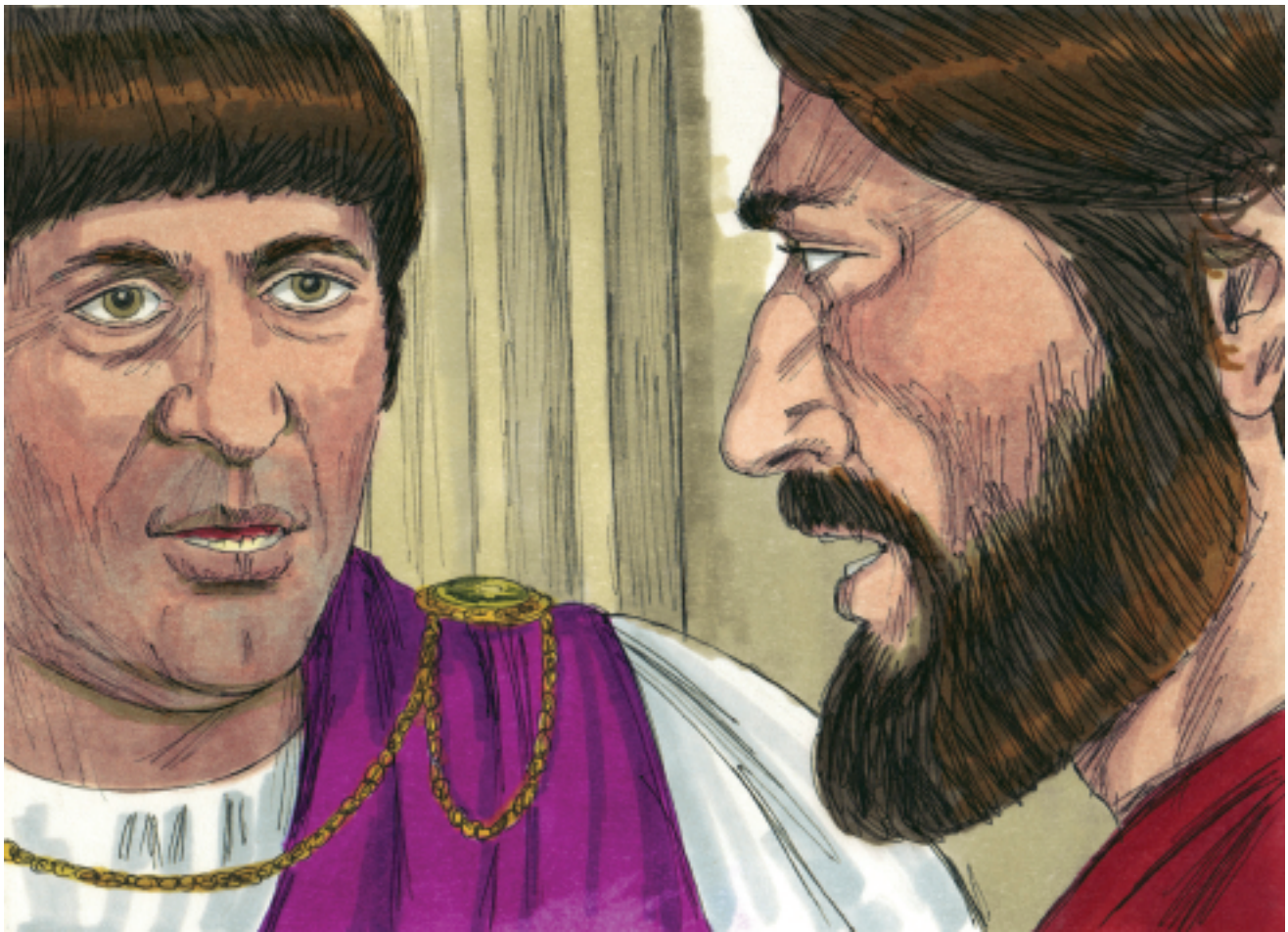


So Pilate went to Jesus and asked, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

“I’m not a Jew, and I don’t care about your people.” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What did you do?”





Jesus said, “I am a king, but my kingdom is not of this world. My kingdom is from another place.”

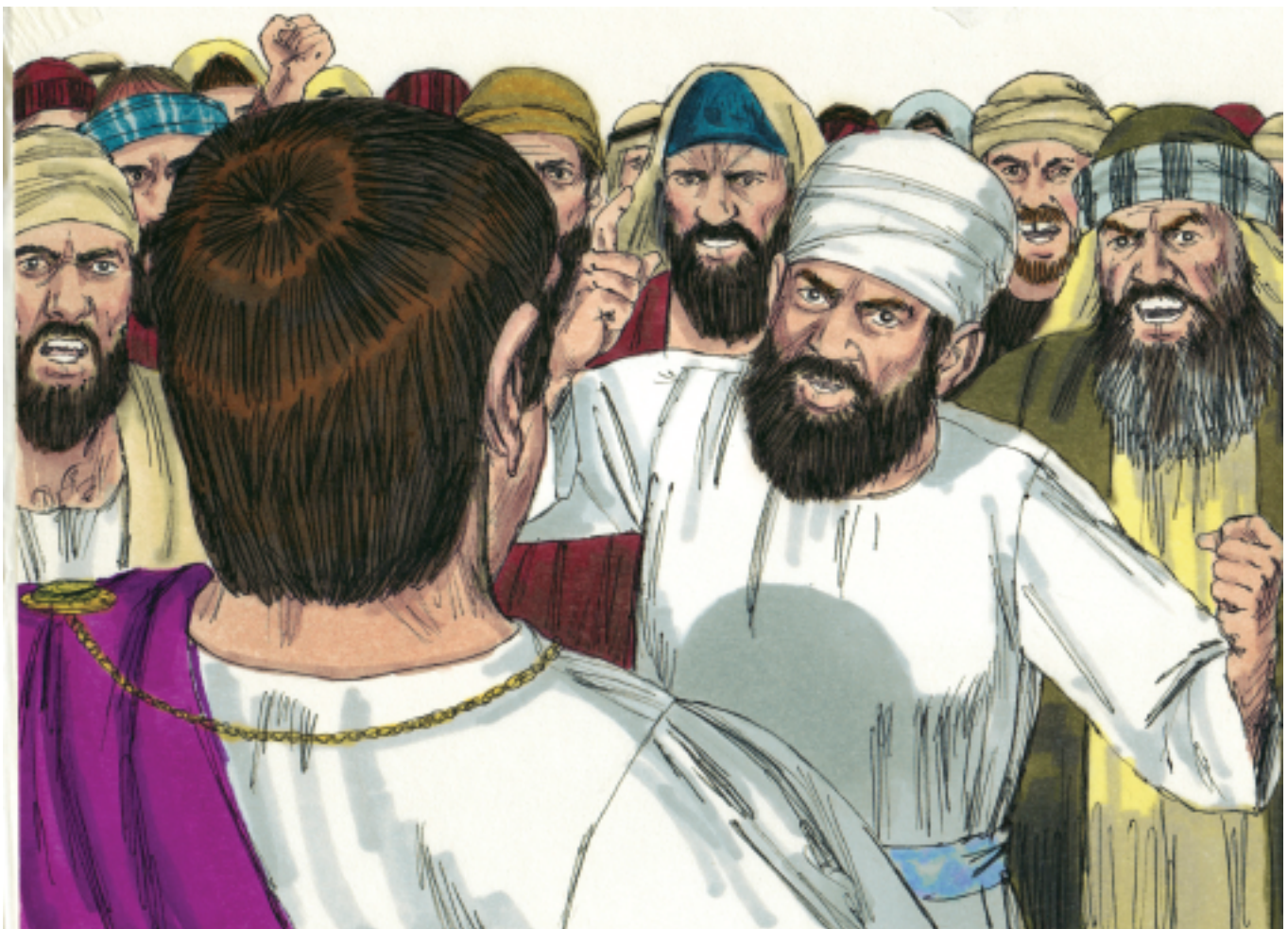
“You ARE a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “The reason I was born and came into this world is to tell everyone the truth.”

“I don’t even know what truth is,” said Pilate

Then he went back to talk to the Jewish leaders. “I don’t see any reason to put this man under arrest. But it’s Passover! I always release one prisoner during Passover. How about I release this ‘king of the Jews’?”

But the Jewish leaders shouted back, “No, not him! Don’t release Jesus! Release Barabbas, the murderer, instead!”



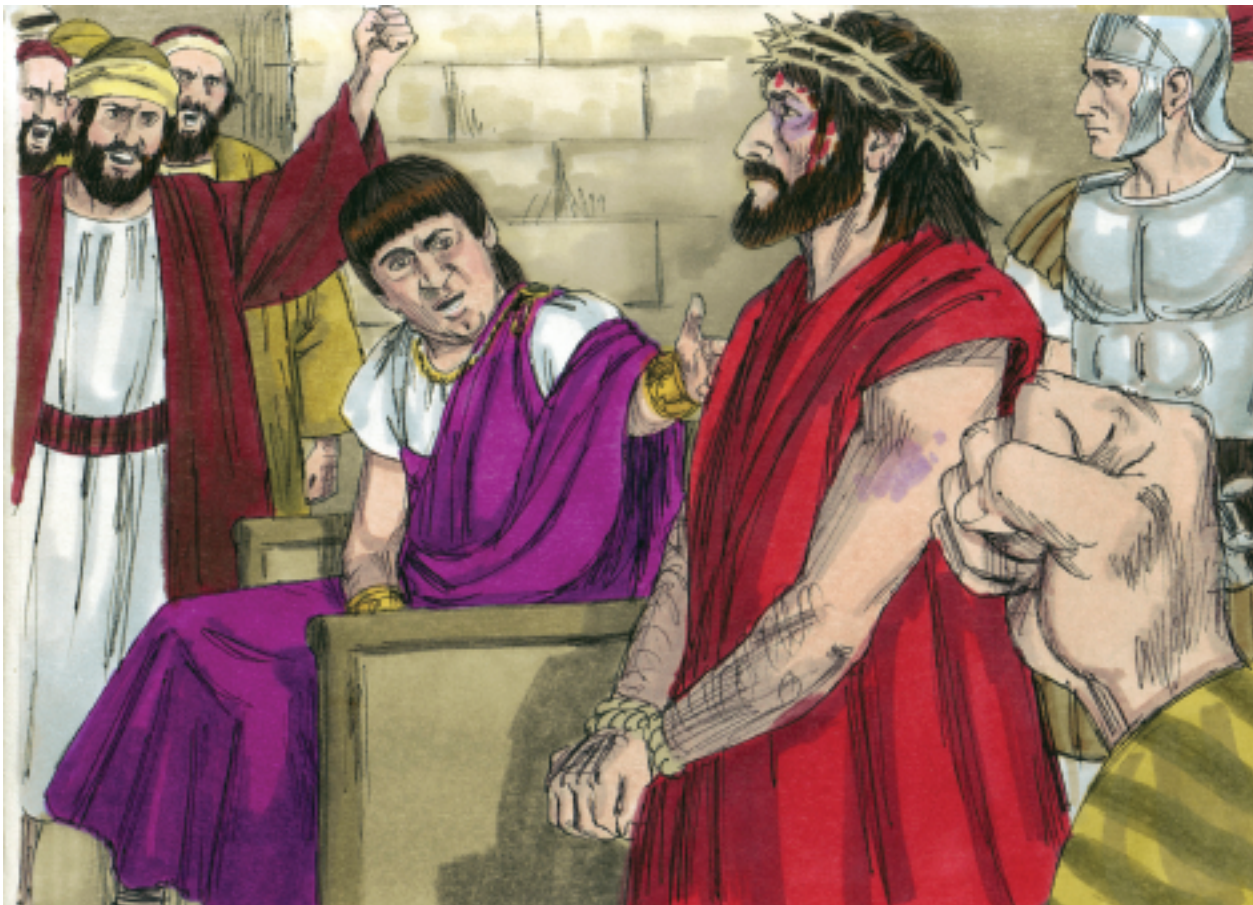


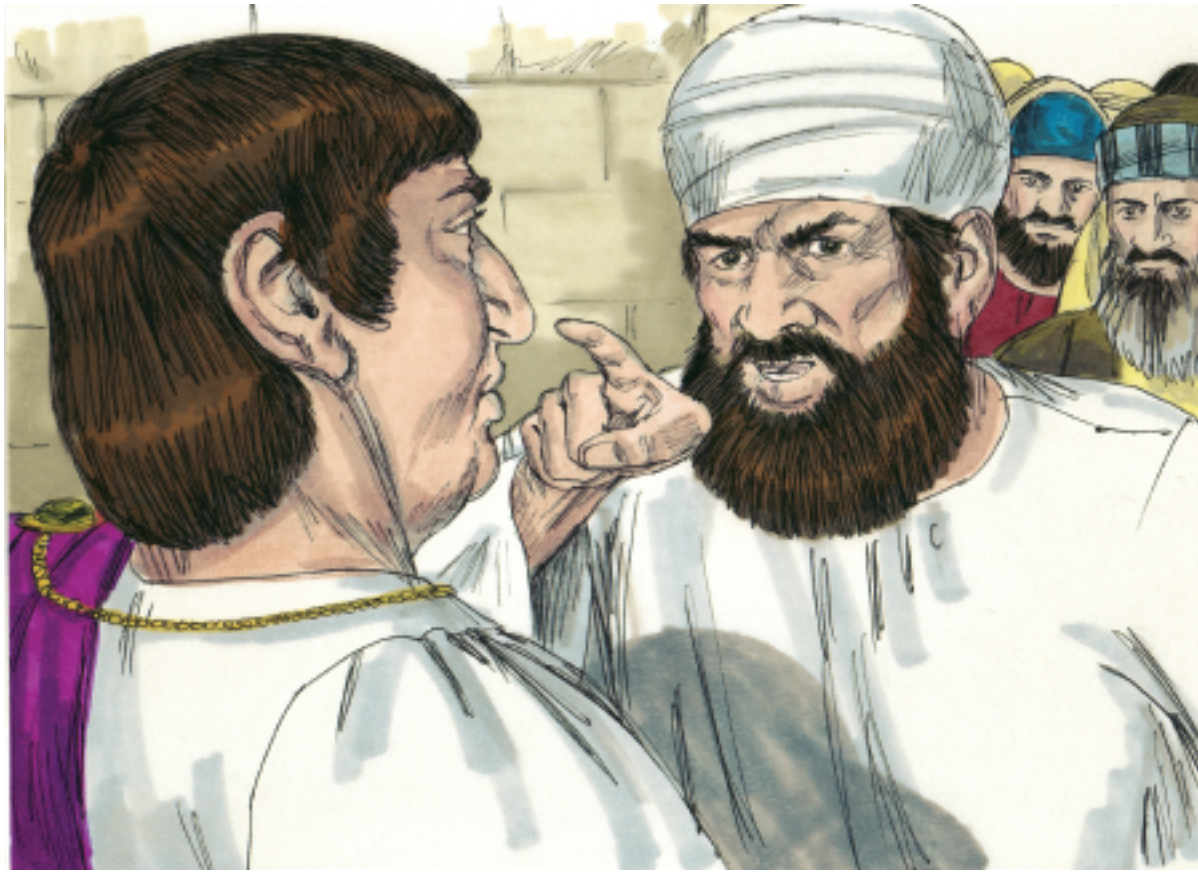
Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped and beaten. The Roman soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a purple robe around him and mocked him by saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

Once again Pilate came out and said to the people gathered there, “I am bringing this man out to you to let you know that I find no reason to punish him.”

When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and purple robe, Pilate said to the crowd, “Here is the man. What do you want me to do to him?”

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify him!”





But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I don’t think he deserves it.”

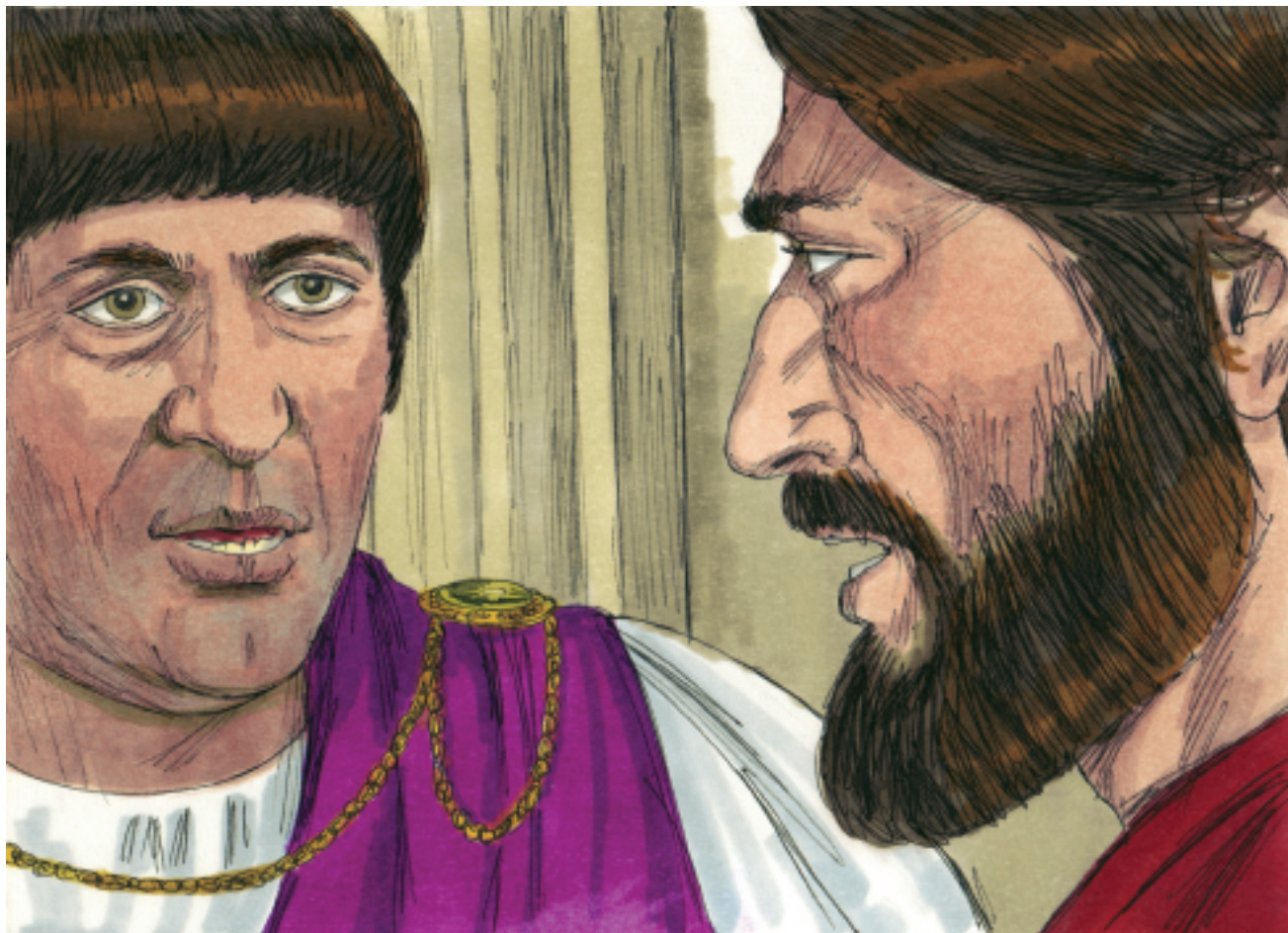
The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and went back to Jesus.

“Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.

“Why won’t you talk to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have the power to free you or kill you?”

Jesus answered, “You do not have any power over me that wasn’t given to you from God.”





After this, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting that they wanted Jesus to be killed.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king by Caesar,” the chief priests answered.