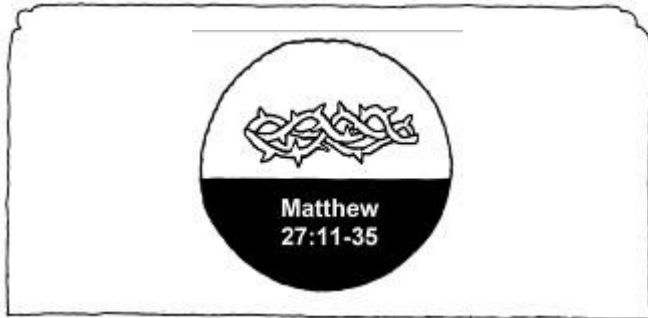


JESUS and Pontius Pilate

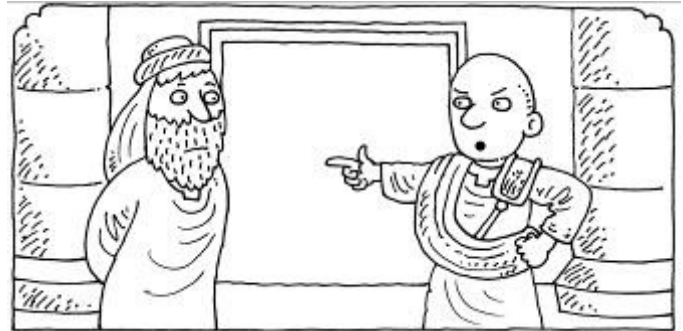
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By Jill Kemp

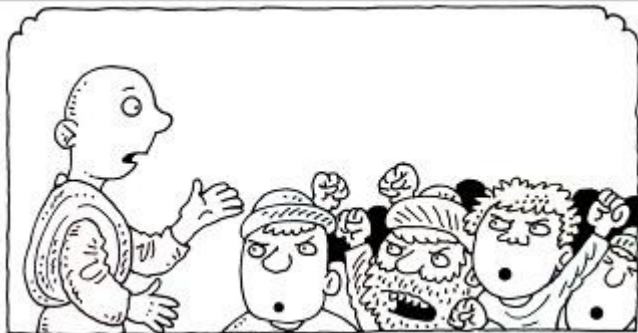
Illustrated by Richard Gunther



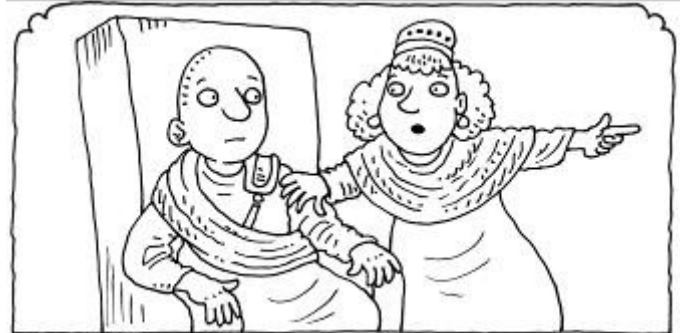
Caiphias the High Priest sent Jesus to be judged by Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman Governor in the province of Judea.



Pontius Pilate the Governor asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus agreed, "It is just as you say." But, when all the people mocked him he didn't



Pilate asked the Jews if he should let Jesus go? The angry crowd demanded that he release a bad prisoner called Barabbas and crucify Jesus.



Pilate sat down to think about what he should do. "Have nothing to do with Jesus," his wife warned, "I had a bad dream about him last night."



Pilate didn't want to punish Jesus because he knew that he was an innocent man. He washed his hands in front of everyone, to show that he did not want to be responsible.



The soldiers led Jesus into their hall. They put a scarlet robe on him and made him a crown from some plaited thorns. "Here is the King of the Jews," they joked.



They led him away to be crucified. Jesus was too weak to carry his cross, so the soldiers grabbed a man called Simon, from the town of Cyrene, to carry it behind him.



After they crucified Jesus, the soldiers threw dice to decide who should have his coat, which was beautifully woven from one piece of cloth. This was exactly as God's Word had said, long ago.