

Condemned by Pilate

PREPARE

You will need:

A Bible

A bowl of water

Soap

A towel

READ

Matthew 27:19-26 (NIV)

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.



Antonio Ciseri - Ecce homo



Jan Lievens - Pilate Washing his Hands

REFLECT

What do you think it was like hearing that crowd?

Can you sympathise with Pilate wanting to just give in?

In what ways do we give in and take the easy road even if it means being part of injustice?

ACT

Wash your hands in the bowl of water and dry them.

Think about areas in your life where you act like Pilate - and participate in injustice because it is easier than fighting for what is right.