

Jesus: Judged, Beaten, and Crowned with Thorns

The emotional weight of what Jesus suffers gets heavier as we journey through the Stations of the Cross during Lent. At station five, we read about Jesus before the Roman governor, Pilate. We'll consider who Pilate was in history and why his presence is important. Then, at station six, we somberly remember the mockery, persecution, and suffering Jesus endured at the hands of the Roman soldiers. Together, we'll reflect on how these stations highlight Jesus' innocence and the magnitude of his sacrifice, and what they mean for us as his disciples today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Why do you think the Bible identifies Pilate by name? What is his significance in Jesus' journey to the cross?
- What does it mean to mock a person? Why is it particularly cruel?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Jesus: Judged, Beaten, and Crowned with Thorns](#)

READ [Mark 15:1-15](#), [Matthew 27:19-31](#), [John 18:28-19:3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What does the inclusion of Pilate's encounter tell or show us about Jesus?
- Reread [Isaiah 53:3-5](#) and recall host Darrell Delaney's reflection on it: "Isaiah reminds us to look at it [Jesus being flogged and beaten] the right way, where it is our sins that put him on the cross; it is our iniquities...our transgressions...we are the reason why he was going through what he was going through; and also, it is redemptive in the fact that it is showing us that by these wounds...these very wounds...we are being healed and we are being forgiven." What are your thoughts or feelings as you dwell on the words from Isaiah and Darrell's reflection?
- Why is it important not to skip over the details of Jesus' suffering, but to intentionally remember and reflect on it every Lent?
- Host Scott Hoezee explained that Jesus' suffering "sets the tone for Christian living". He also described Jesus' suffering as "a mark of discipleship." Where have you seen the world pushing back against the goodness of Jesus and his followers who minister to the brokenness of the world?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Daniel 9:20-27](#), [John 11](#), [1 Peter 2:20b-25](#), [Matthew 5:10-12](#), [Mark 8:34-38](#), [John 15:20](#), [John 16:1-4](#), [Romans 12:14](#), [2 Timothy 3:12](#), [Acts 10:34-43](#), [John 14:27](#), [1 Peter 3:8-18](#), [Romans 5:6-11](#)

CONCLUSION

Pilate recognized Jesus' innocence, yet judged and sentenced him as the crowds demanded. Soldiers mocked him, beat him, and crowned him with thorns, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant. Meditating on these two Stations of the Cross can be heart-wrenching as we re-witness what Jesus endured on our behalf, but it also generates thanksgiving, gratitude, and praise. Jesus provides a vivid model of what it means to surrender our lives to God and remain faithful in our discipleship, even when we experience suffering because of it. Close your time by expressing your gratitude to God for Jesus' sacrifice; ask for his strength to follow Jesus' example in your own life of discipleship.

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