

Station 3: Jesus is Sentenced to Crucifixion

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Date: 31 March 2026

[0 : 00] Station 3. Jesus is sentenced to crucifixion.

Many of the Jewish authorities are enraged by Jesus' claim of being God's anointed king and infuriated by his condemnation of them.

So, they arrest Jesus and bring him before Pilate, the Roman governor, with accusations that he's a threat against Rome. Jesus is accused of being the king of the Jews, an accusation he does not refute.

Still, Pilate repeatedly finds no basis for charges against Jesus. But the crowds, led by the chief priests, demand crucifixion.

In Luke 23, we read this. Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, Crucify him! Crucify him!

[1 : 06] For the third time he spoke to them, Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him punished and then release him.

But with loud shouts, they insistently demanded that he be crucified. And their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand.

Listen to the crowds crying out for Jesus' death. Close your eyes and imagine being there.

Jesus has done nothing wrong. Everyone knows that. But they just want to get rid of him. Feel the injustice and Pilate's cowardice.

Yet Jesus is willing to submit to this. See the sign in front of you with foreign languages?

[2 : 27] Hold it. Or touch it. The sign describes the charge against Jesus. Try to make sense of the text.

The sign says, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

It's written in Aramaic, Greek, and Latin, the common languages of the time. These words show Jew and Gentile, all of humanity, united in rejecting their creator.

Jesus really is the King, yet he's being sentenced to death. Now close your eyes again. The crowds are shouting, and you are one of them.

Whenever we go on our own way, choosing to worship created things rather than Jesus, we reject his rule as king over us. Take some time right now to consider the way that you do this.

[3 : 39] Then, seek Jesus in confession. When you're ready, move to the next station.