

# Pilate's Inscription

## Station 5

John 19:19-22 (ESV) 19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

1. Discuss or write down why you think Pilate put that sign above Jesus' head. Do you think it was out of respect or mockery for Jesus?

2. Why did many people object to that sign and why did they not acknowledge Jesus as their King?

Throughout the trial of Jesus Christ, Pontius Pilate poses many questions towards Jesus and ultimately tells the people that he finds Him innocent. The people being displeased with this decision shout at Pilate until he agrees to have Jesus crucified.

John 1:11 (ESV) 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

The people turned their backs on Jesus and wanted nothing to do with Him, maybe they found it insulting that Pilate would put that inscription above His head. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. You might think you would have recognized who Jesus was, but just like most of the people in His day we probably

would not have understood all the signs about who He was and is. Maybe we would have also mocked Him and sent Him to His death.

Did Pilate put that sign above the Lord Jesus because he believed Jesus to be someone special? After the trial and speaking with his wife, Pilate found Jesus to be innocent and wanted to release him. The religious leaders were not pleased with this and demanded that if he were a friend to the emperor then he would crucify Jesus. Was it the fear of losing power is what drove Pilate to have Jesus crucified? Maybe Pilate knew there was something special about this man called Jesus, maybe it was just passive aggression, but Pilate put that inscription above his head: "The King of the Jews". He made sure it was in three languages so that everyone who walked by would understand what it said.

### AS YOU GO FROM HERE:

Take some time now to discuss or journal your answers to these questions:

1. Why do you think Pilate put that sign above Jesus' head? Do you think it was out of respect or mockery for Jesus?

2. Why were people so opposed to that sign?

3. Why did they not acknowledge Jesus as their King?

# Pilate's Inscription Station 5



[www.doxatoronto.com](http://www.doxatoronto.com)



SCAN ME