

Do you see any "friendly" faces in the crowd? Why did the Pharisees tell so many lies about Jesus? Explain that He said Himself that He was king of the Jews and this made them very angry, for the Pharisees thought He meant to take their place, to put them aside and become king, but Jesus told them His kingdom was not like the kingdom of other kings. (You all know what He meant.)

Gentle Jesus—He did not quarrel with the Pharisees. He answered nothing. Sing Hymn 525, Book of Praise. Impress the thought that it never is worth while to become angry and quarrelsome, we lose more than we gain.

Tell of the custom of releasing a prisoner at the Passover time.

The Prisoner: Which?—Pilate reminds the crowd that there are two notable prisoners, Barabbas, a robber, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Which will they release? Describe the crowd as the matter is discussed. See the chief Pharisees going about amongst the crowd urging them to ask that Barabbas, the robber, be released and Christ crucified.

A True Witness—Ah! a messenger has come to Pilate with a message from his wife. She has had a dream that had shown her that it was wrong for Pilate to have anything to do with putting to death this good man,

Jesus. She warned Pilate to have nothing to do with it.

Deciding Against Christ—The crowd decided against Christ. They were false witnesses. "Crucify Him," they cry. Every time we do or think or say anything wrong, we are deciding against Christ. Every time we choose the bad rather than the good, we are deciding against Christ. "What evil hath He done?" Pilate asks the crowd. Nothing! "I find no fault in Him," Pilate said, and he called for a basin of water and washed his hands as a sign that he was not to blame for putting Jesus to death, but he was not brave enough to stand up for Him. Pilate acted a lie, and he gave Jesus to them to be crucified.

Golden Text—Pilate's question is the great question for each little boy and girl here today. What shall we do with Jesus? Shall we choose play or anything else rather than Jesus? "I'll just open up the doors of my heart wide and take Jesus in," said true-hearted Willie. Speak of the boys and girls who are true witnesses who would not tell a lie, nor act a lie.

"Christ is your own Master,
He is good and true,
And His little children
Must be holy too."

To Remember—I SHOULD SPEAK THE TRUTH.

FROM THE PLATFORM

*"Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood,
For the good or evil side."*

Write on the board the above lines from James Russell Lowell's poem, "The Present Crisis." Ask the School for the name of the man in our Lesson who was called upon to make a decision between truth and falsehood, between good and evil. Bring out by questioning the fact that Pilate had no doubt as to the course he should have followed, that he had no doubt as to the innocence of Jesus. Emphasize this. Then further question the School as to the means which Pilate took to escape from making the decision himself,—the sending of Jesus off to Herod, and his question to the people in v. 22. But Pilate simply had to decide. He was the Governor. On which side did he take his stand,—the good or evil side? But the Jewish nation had to make a decision, too. Jesus was their Messiah. What decision did they make? Must we decide for Christ or against Him?