

awake (5 a.m.), away over to another part of the city, where Pilate, the Roman governor, lived. His word was law. He had power to order Jesus to be put to death. (The only one who had this power.) Describe Pilate awakened out of sleep, putting on his robes of state, taking his seat on the judgment throne, the crowd around Jesus—all enemies—Jesus *alone* being tried for His life. (If possible show a copy of Munkacsy's great picture, "Christ Before Pilate.") Tell of Pilate's unwillingness to condemn Jesus. He sent Him to Herod, hoping to have nothing more to do about it. Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate; so Pilate had to question Him. Pilate said (verse 35) the only thing His enemies could say was that Jesus said He was *King of the Jews*. (Explain.) He did not want a throne and crown (His kingdom is in people's hearts.) He told Pilate why He came to earth (verse 37). After Pilate had talked to Jesus he was sure that He was innocent and holy. He went out to the Jews and said (Golden Text). Jesus said no angry word—dignified, true, patient, passive. Pilate's wife begged that he would not harm Jesus (Matt. 27 : 19). (She spoke up for Jesus.)

Explain custom of releasing a prisoner at Passover time. Pilate thought of this. Perhaps the Jews would say "Let Jesus go free"; but no! there was a wicked robber, Barabbas, a prisoner. The Jews shouted out, "Let Barabbas go free, Crucify Jesus." Pilate knew in his heart it was wrong? but to satisfy the Jews he gave the order and Jesus was led away to be crucified,—to suffer for us—when doing everything that was right. Would you like to hear what became of wicked Judas; (Tell story, Matt. 27 : 3-10.) (We too shall suffer when we betray Jesus in any way.)

Practical Thoughts.—When we read about Jesus, pure, true, kind ("He went about doing good"), we must say as Pilate said, "I find no fault in Him." Do you ever cause persons to suffer when they have done nothing wrong? Ever cause father and mother to suffer grief because you are naughty? Ever see a big boy teasing a smaller boy? Ever cause suffering to dumb animals?

Two boys in a store working together—some money missed from till—Jack and Will arrested. When on the way to be tried Will, who had stolen the money, slipped it into Jack's pocket, unknown to him. When pockets were examined the money was found in Jack's. Jack cried and declared he was innocent, but there the money was. He was sent to jail. He grieved so much—could neither eat nor sleep. His poor mother was broken-hearted too. His only comfort was that Jesus would help him in some way. One day Will came and confessed and was put in jail and Jack was set free. Jack tried hard to bear no grudge against Will. *Bear all things.* Jesus knows when we are doing right. He will help us. He knows how it feels to suffer when doing right—to suffer for other's sins—(Tell one of the many beautiful stories of the martyrs for Christ's name).

