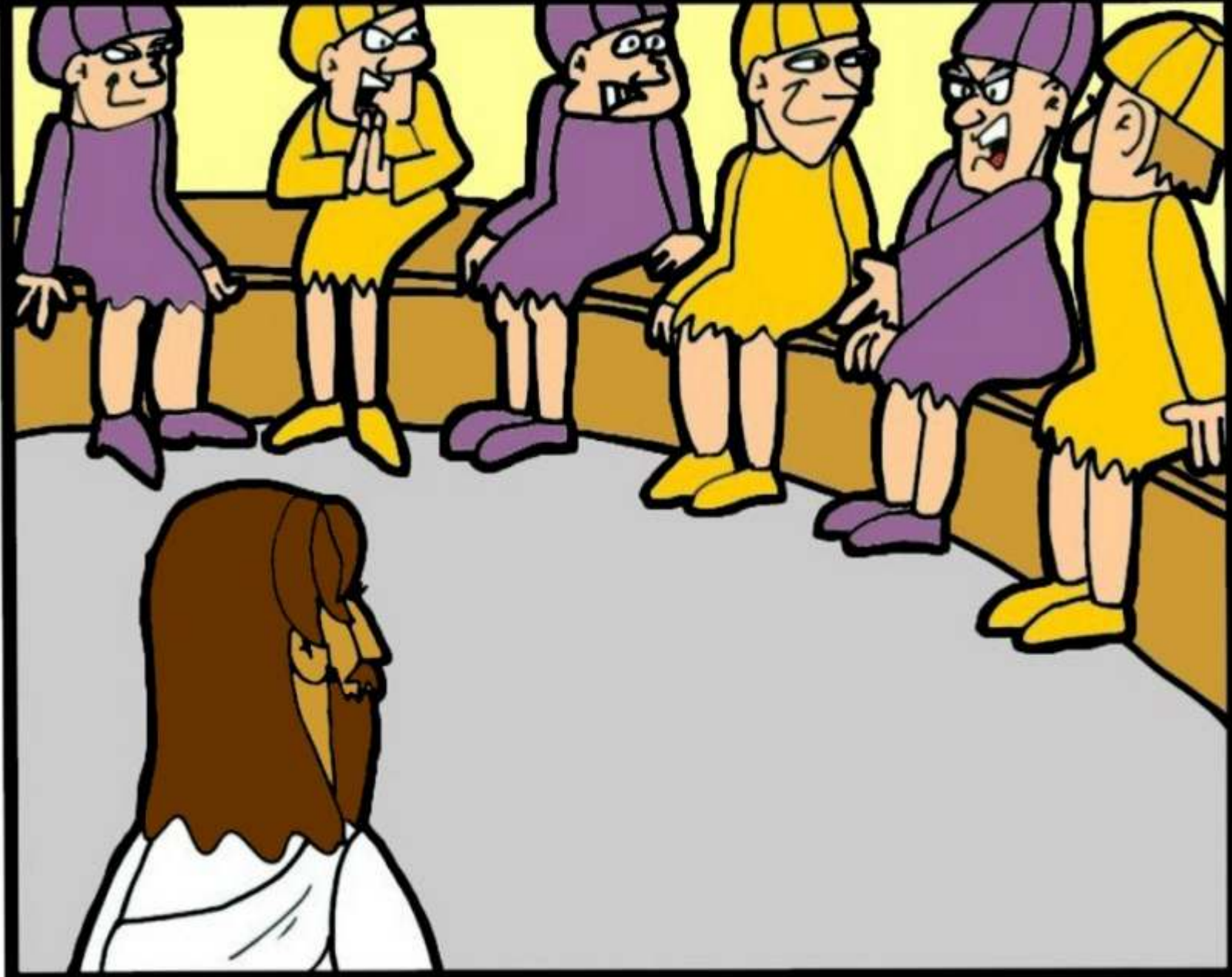


The Trial of Jesus

(Based on Matthew 27, Isaiah 53:5 & 10,
Mark 15, Luke 23,
John 18:12 - John 19:42)

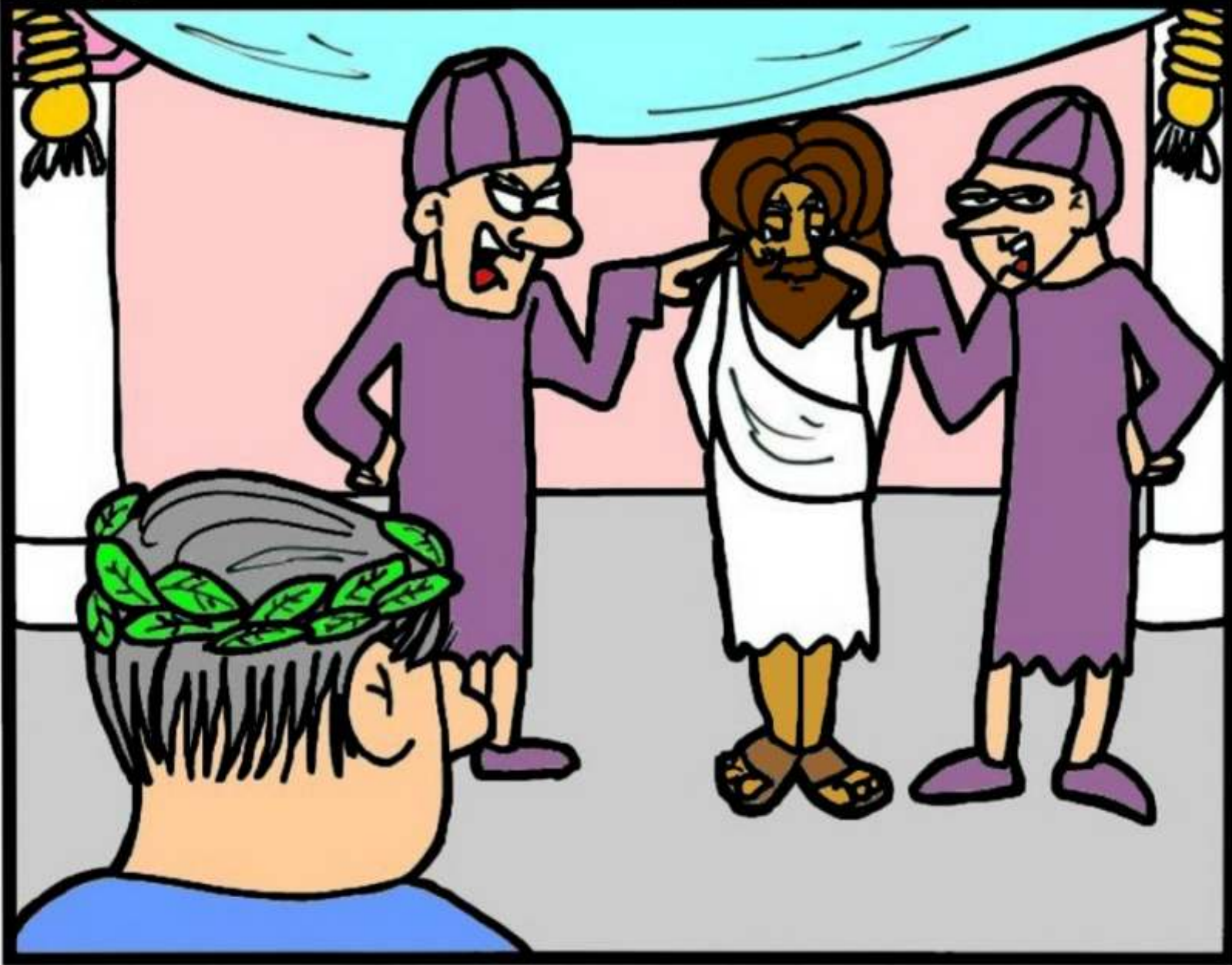
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The phony religious leaders had a quick trial for Jesus. They looked for false stories about Jesus so they would have some reason to put him to death. "He deserves to die!" they decided. Jesus kept silent.



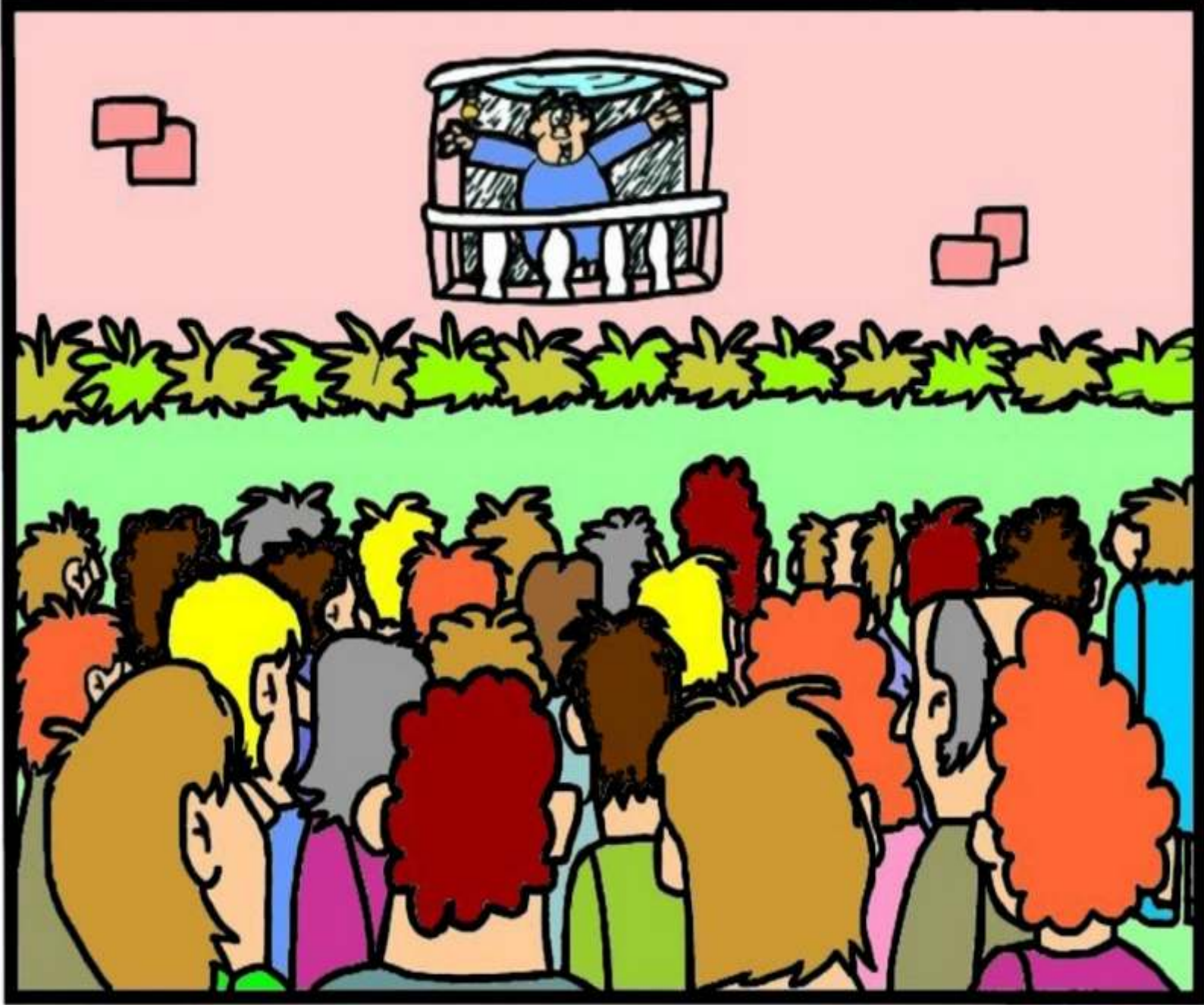
They blindfolded him, spit on his face and beat him. "Use your prophet powers and tell us who hit you," they said as they made fun of him.



In the morning they brought Jesus to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. "This man does bad things," they lied. "He tells people not to pay taxes to Emperor Caesar!" But Jesus stayed quiet.



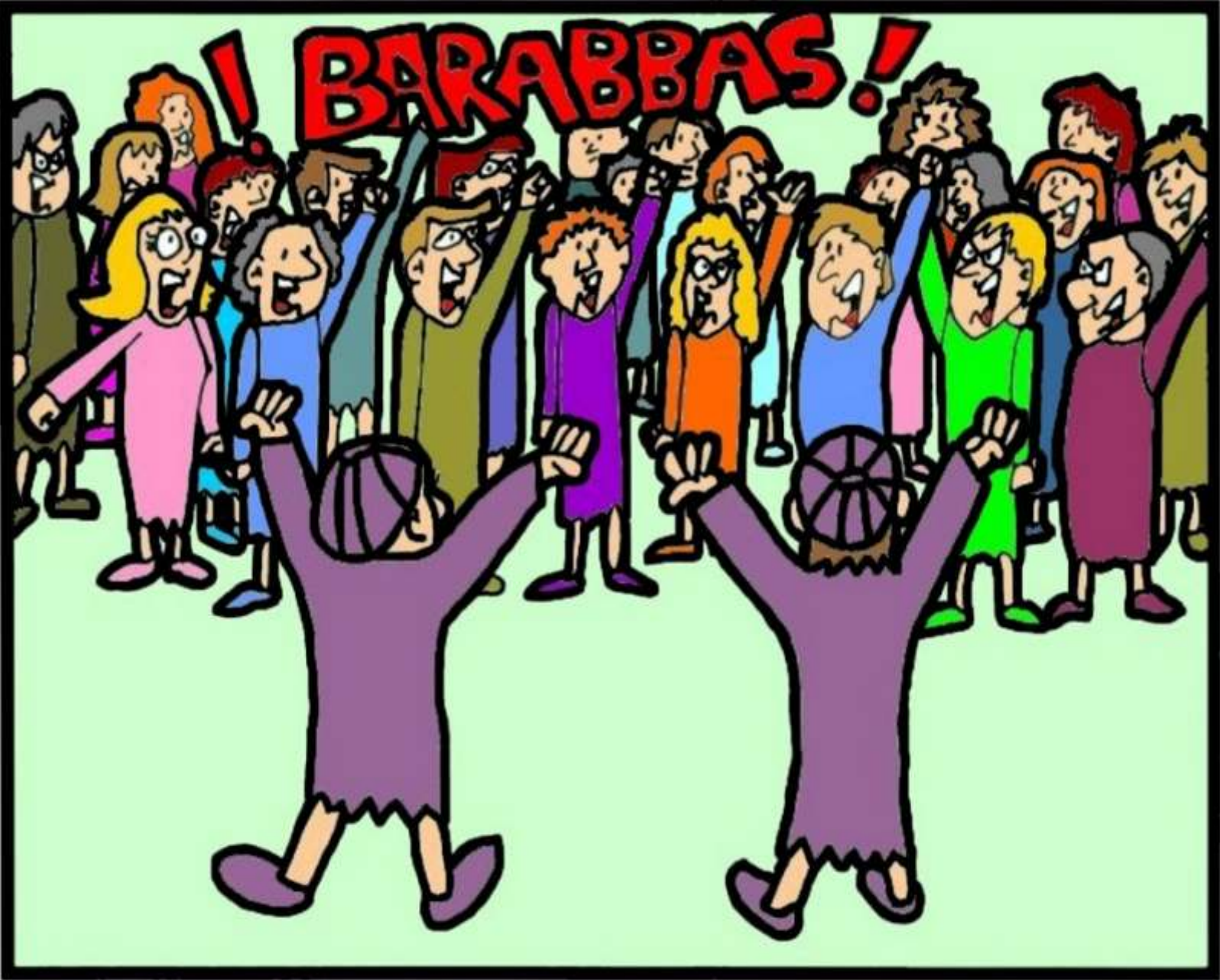
Pilate sent him to King Herod because Jesus was from Galilee. Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus. Then Herod sent him back to Pilate. That day Pilate and Herod became friends. Before that they were enemies.



By now a large crowd of people had gathered. Pilate said to them, "Every year at this time I set a prisoner free. Who do you want me to set free? Barabbas or Jesus?" Barabbas was a murderer.



"Message for you Pilate from your wife," said a messenger. "Don't have anything to do with that good man. I had a bad dream today because of him," said the message.



"Barabbas! Barabbas!" chanted the people. (The chief priests told them to ask for the murderer.) "Let Jesus be crucified." "Why, what evil has he done?" asked Pilate. "He said he is the Son of God," yelled the priests.



"Son of God!" gasped Pilate. Then he was really afraid.



Before all the people Pilate washed his hands in a basin of water and said, "I am innocent in the killing of this good person. You take care of it." Pilate let Barabbas out of jail.



Pilate had Jesus whipped. Then he turned Jesus over to the men who would crucify him.



The soldiers ripped Jesus' clothes off and put a purple robe on him. Then they twisted a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a stick in his hand and they made fun of him. They pretended to bow down to him and they said, "Hello King of the Jews!"



They spit on Jesus, took the stick and beat him on the head with it. When they had finished making fun of Jesus they removed the robe and put his own clothes back on him.



Lord, thank you for choosing to die for us. You could have called for angels and ended all the suffering, but instead you gave your life.