

Jesus Christ Superstar, Trial & 39 Lashes

PILATE And so the king is once again my guest.
And why is this? Was Herod unimpressed?
CAIAPHAS We turn to Rome to sentence Nazareth.
We have no law to put a man to death.
We need him crucified. It's all you have to do.
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PILATE Talk to me Jesus Christ.
You have been brought here
Manacled, beaten by your own people.
Do you have the first idea why you deserve it?
Listen King of the Jews,
Where is your kingdom?
Look at me. Am I a Jew?
JESUS I have got no kingdom in this world. I'm through, through, through.
MOB Talk to me Jesus Christ.
JESUS There may be a kingdom for me somewhere. If I only knew.
PILATE Then you're a king?
JESUS It's you that say I am.
I look for truth and find that I get damned.
PILATE But what is truth? Is truth a changing law?
We both have truths. Are mine the same as yours?
MOB Crucify him! Crucify him!
PILATE What do you mean? You'd crucify your king?
MOB We have no king but Caesar!
PILATE He's done no wrong. No, not the slightest thing.
MOB We have no king but Caesar! Crucify him!
PILATE Well this is new, respect for Caesar.
Till now this has been noticably lacking.
Who is this Jesus?
Why is he different?
You Jews produce messiahs by the sackfull.
CROWD We need him crucified, it's all you have to do.
PILATE Talk to me Jesus Christ.
Look at your Jesus Christ.
I'll agree he's mad.
Ought to be locked up,
But that is not a reason to destroy him. He's a sad little man,
Not a King or God.
Not a thief, I need a crime!

CROWD Kill him, he says he's God, he's a blasphemer,
He'll conquer you, and us and even Caesar.
A-hahahahahah. Crucify him, crucify him!
PILATE Behold the man, behold your shattered King.
CROWD We have no King but Caesar.
PILATE You hippocrites, you hate us more than him.
CROWD We have no King but Caesar, crucify him!
PILATE I see no reason. I find no evil.
This man is harmless, so why does he upset you?
He's just misguided, thinks he's important,
But to keep you vultures happy I shall flog him.
CROWD Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify, crucify, crucify, crucify.
(Thirty-nine lashes, Pilate counts)
PILATE Where are you from Jesus?
What do you want Jesus?
Tell me.
You've got to be careful.
You could be dead soon,
Could well be.
Why do you not speak when I have your life in my hands?
How can you stay quiet? I don't believe you understand.
JESUS You have nothing in your hands.
Any power you have, comes to you from far beyond.
Everything is fixed, and you can't change it.

PILATE You're a fool Jesus Christ. How can I help you?

CROWD Pilate, Crucify him!

Remember Caesar. You have a duty

To keep the peace, so crucify him!

Remember Caesar. You'll be demoted.

You'll be deported. Crucify him!

PILATE Don't let me stop your great self-destruction.

Die if you want to, you misguided martyr.

I wash my hands of your demolition.

Die if you want to you innocent puppet!