

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Reflections by Jenny Hawke

3. JUDGEMENT

Jesus is put on trial without any defence. Jesus was dragged in front of the Sanhedrin – the local Magistrates' Court. It was their job to work out whether he had a case to answer. If he said that he was the Messiah, God's promised messenger, he would be guilty of blasphemy. The trouble is, he wouldn't give them a straight answer. He refused to say that he was the Messiah, but he also refused to deny it. They were confused. It was like Jesus was saying "What do you think? Who do you think I am?"

'When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."'

Luke 22 v 66-71

I wanted to show the strength and irrevocable nature of the decision to crucify Jesus. The officials stand with their staffs planted into the ground, grim faces, immovable. I also wanted to give a sense of blood linked to their garments at the lower part of the painting. Jenny Hawke

Who do you think Jesus was? Just a trouble-maker? A figure from history? Or the Son of God?



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JUDGEMENT

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