

1st Station

Jesus is condemned to death

Focus: We may at times be accused of doing or saying something that is not true.

Action: Pray for the grace to know and carry out God's will (not ours) in all things.



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

There may be times in our lives when people say things about us that aren't true, and these accusations can have varying degrees of consequence. In some situations a personal slight can leave us feeling sad, confused or maybe even angry. In other instances, the accusations could go beyond an emotional impact and be compounded by social and reputational consequences. Think of how many rifts among family and friends are the result of false accusations, or the people serving prison sentences for crimes they did not commit. Words are very powerful and can be used for good or bad - the choice is always ours. We need to be very careful never to say anything to, or about anyone that may be damaging, even if only in the slightest way.

Jesus was accused of sedition — a crime against the government, in part due to Judas' betrayal for 30 pieces of silver. And as we know, this trumped up charge against him resulted in a sentence of death by crucifixion. In the final days of His life, Jesus anticipated the worst, but nonetheless, in the Garden of Olives, after experiencing three degrees of agony, He prayed: *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done"* (Luke 22:42). There is no one/single answer to how we should respond when we are accused of something we did not do, but seeking God's will in the situation will never be the wrong choice.

Prayer

Almighty Father, in good times and in bad, your will is always our best course of action. Give us the grace to understand it, to trust in it unconditionally, especially in difficult times, and the desire to see it through to completion for love of you. We join our prayers to those of Jesus who in his final hours said: *"not my will, but yours be done"* (Luke 22:42). We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.