

## **You Have Won, O Galilean**

The Roman Emperor Julian spent much of his reign trying to promote paganism at the expense of Christianity. He ruled in the fourth century. He tried to stop the spread of Christianity while promoting several other gods.

It is reported that after he was mortally wounded in a battle that he uttered the statement, "You have won, O Galilean." He was referring to Jesus. I wonder how many other people down through the ages have thought the same thing.

Particularly, I think about the members of the Jewish Sanhedrin that condemned Jesus to death. I think of Caiaphas, the high priest. I think of Pilate, who because of his cowardice, ordered Jesus to be crucified. I think of King Herod. When Jesus went to the cross, they thought they had won.

But when Jesus arose from the dead, all their plans had failed. The high priest and Sanhedrin were afraid that people would believe in Jesus as the Messiah. John mentions that before Jesus' death many believed but would not acknowledge their faith because of fear of the Jewish leaders. After the resurrection, there was no fear. The people proclaimed their belief in Jesus. In the end they had to acknowledge, "You have won, O Galilean."

In truth, we should not rest until we all have come to the time in our lives when we confess and proclaim, "You have won, O Galilean."

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