

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 50: I Am Barabbas

## **Mark 15:1-20 (NLT) *Jesus' Trial before Pilate***

<sup>1</sup> Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

<sup>2</sup> Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “You have said it.”

<sup>3</sup> Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, <sup>4</sup> and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?” <sup>5</sup> But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise.

<sup>6</sup> Now it was the governor’s custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested. <sup>7</sup> One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. <sup>8</sup> The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual.

<sup>9</sup> “Would you like me to release to you this ‘King of the Jews’?” Pilate asked. <sup>10</sup> (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) <sup>11</sup> But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Pilate asked them, “Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?”

<sup>13</sup> They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

<sup>14</sup> “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?”

But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”

<sup>15</sup> So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

## ***The Soldiers Mock Jesus***

<sup>16</sup> The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor’s headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. <sup>17</sup> They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. <sup>18</sup> Then they saluted him and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup> And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. <sup>20</sup> When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

## **Matthew 27:16-17 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

*“Here then is yet another irony: Pilate offered the people a man who wanted to give them political freedom and a man who could give them spiritual freedom.” R.C. Sproul*

**People are prone to follow the crowd.**

**Apostles Creed** begins...

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, died, and was buried.*

**Matthew 27:17-19** (NLT)

<sup>17</sup> As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup> (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

<sup>19</sup> Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: "Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night."

**People who seek to please the crowd easily dismiss personal responsibility to do the right thing.**

**Eusebius:** *"were torn by scourges down to deep-seated veins and arteries, so that the hidden contents of the recesses of their bodies, their entrails, and organs were exposed to sight."* (Hughes, 378)

**Josephus** describes this in similar terms; he notes that the scourging left Jesus with bone and cartilage showing *"...his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind."* (Hughes, 378)

**We see Jesus as a victorious king and suffering servant.**

**Jesus is both the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5) and the sacrificial Lamb of God (John 1:29).**

***Who was responsible for Jesus' death?***

**We (all people) are responsible for Jesus' death since he died as a sacrifice for our sins.**

**Ultimately, it was God himself who was responsible for Jesus' death.**

**Romans 8:32** (NLT)

<sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

**Philippians 2:8** (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

**2 Corinthians 9:15** (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

**It's unthinkable that an innocent man should die, and the guilty man set free.**

**But the story of Barabbas is our story.**