

Mark 15:1-15

Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. 2 Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered and said to him, "It is as you say."

3 And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. 4 Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" 5 But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.

6 Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. 7 And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. 8 Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. 9 But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" 10 For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. 12 Pilate answered and said to them again, "What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" 13 So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"

14 Then Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!" 15 So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified

1. Jesus was betrayed and arrested in the Garden
2. He faced an illegal trial with the Sanhedrin

3. Peter denied Him 3 times
4. It's around 5 am and Jesus will be on the Cross by 9 am
5. Ch. 15 Mark opens up with immediately in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and the whole council and they bound Jesus and delivered Him to Pilate

I. Accusation

II. Substitution

I. Accusation

1. The Jewish leaders bind Jesus and bring Him to Pilot
 - a. Not looking for a judge
 - b. They're looking for an executioner
 - c. They're ignoring many of their own laws to see this happen
 - i. A 24 hour period should be in place to give time for justice; that was ignored
 - d. They're not interested in a fair trial
 - i. In their minds, He needs to die
 1. It's the only solution for them to retain power
2. They had to bring Jesus to the Roman governor because Rome took the power of execution from Israel
 - a. If anyone was to be executed, Rome was to handle it
 - b. So they bring Jesus to Pilot

3. Pilate was the fifth governor of Judea. He held the office for eleven years... (**Sproul**)
4. **His role was**
 - a. Commanding the Roman military
 - b. Collecting taxes
 - c. Judging matters related to Rome
 - d. He also approved the High Priest in Israel (**MacArthur**)
5. The ancient historians Philo and Josephus tell us that Pilate was inflexible, stubborn, and cruel. During his tenure in Judea, he put down several insurrections or protests by the Jews in brutal fashion. There were times when he deliberately provoked them. For example, he invited the legions of Rome to enter Jerusalem and the temple area with banners that proclaimed the Roman Caesar, which was seen as blasphemous to the Jewish people...(Sproul)
6. As a result, uprisings happened under his watch and Caesar warned him about it.
 - a. He knew the stubbornness of the Jewish people
 - i. During one of those uprisings, he brought them into the amphitheatre and threatened to kill them if they didn't stop harassing him about the image he brought into the temple
 1. They called his bluff and bore their necks and said, "go ahead and slaughter us"
7. He was afraid of anymore uprisings
 - a. This was a potential riot
8. Pilot can see through the Sanhedrin just as they read him like a book
 - a. It doesn't take spiritual insight to see arrogance, stubbornness, greed...

b. Pilot knows they're up to no good

c. He knows who Jesus is

i. At least from this past week he's heard of Him

1. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, a great crowd met Him and shouted Hosanna in the highest

a. He realized Jesus is no threat to Rome

i. His mission is not political

1. Otherwise, Rome would have arrested Him

ii. Pilot knows they brought Jesus because of envy

ii. He patiently waits for an accusation that matters to Rome

iii. Something strikes his ears about being a king

1. Are you king of the Jews?

a. **It is as you say**

b. When the high priest asked Jesus, **I AM** was the response

c. When Pilot asks, Jesus replied, **it is as you say**

1. To each one, Jesus speaks his language in a way to be certain and clear

9. They continue accusing Jesus, He answers nothing

ii. Ch. 42:3 I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know;... I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You

c. Let's not accuse God by asking all of the "why questions..."

i. Let's honor God for who He is

ii. King of Kings and Lord of Lords who can do whatever He chooses

iii. However, He chooses to do good because He is good

11. Pilot is now looking for a way to save this innocent man

12. Pilot is in a difficult situation

a. He'd been warned twice about insurrections

i. He admitted that he found no fault in Jesus

13. **How does Pilot deal with Jesus?**

14. **The same way the world tries to deal with him**

a. He tried to avoid the confrontation

i. He attempted to have Herod to handle it

1. Truth will always demand an answer

a. I'll let my parents handle this religion issue; I'm not ready for it

b. I'll let the religious groups deal with Him, I'd rather not

2. Jesus will be dealt with either now or at Judgment
3. The truth will always demand a response
4. Although he washed his hands
 - a. He's forever inscribed in history as the one who ordered the execution of Jesus
 - b. Not making a decision is actually making one

II. Substitution

b. How does religion deal with Jesus

- i. **By finding another Jesus**
- ii. Who would you like me to release to you?
 1. Jesus of Nazareth?
 2. Jesus Barabbas?
 - a. Jesus Barabbas (Son of the Father)
 - b. The exact same name
 - c. Two completely different people
 - d. Jehovah's witnesses say they have the same Jesus
 - e. Mormons say the same Jesus
 - f. Their Jesus and the real One are as opposite as can be

- g. At times, in our Christian churches, we look for a convenient Jesus
 - i. One who only blesses
 - ii. One who only heals
 - iii. One who only gets you out of trouble
- h. The real Jesus is Holy, merciful and righteous
 - i. All the others are a fraud
- iii. The chief priests prompted the crowd to choose Barabbas
- iv. Barabbas going free is a picture of the substitution theme of the Bible
- v. Where one takes the place of another
- vi. This is not a new idea
 - 1. God sacrificed an animal to cover Adam
 - 2. Abraham found a Ram to offer instead of Isaac
 - 3. A perfect lamb is slaughtered to save the firstborn
 - 4. Leviticus 16 speaks of the scapegoat
 - a. The guilty would place their hands on the animal and set it free in the wilderness
 - b. Transferring all of their guilt on another
 - c. All of these were pictures to help us understand this picture

- vii. A series of tornados caused extensive damage in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. Nearly 100 lives were lost. Prior to the storm, a man named David Kostka was umpiring a Little League baseball game in Wheatland, Pennsylvania. When he saw the black funnel heading toward the field, he rushed into the stands and grabbed his niece. He pushed her into a nearby ditch and covered her with his body. Then the tornado struck. When the youngster looked up, her uncle was gone. He had given his life in the deadly storm to save her.

- viii. Barabbas was covered by Jesus that day

- ix. He's was a picture of all of humanity
 - 1. The guilty goes free as the innocent offers His life

 - 2. Barabbas' chains were removed when Jesus took his place

 - 3. God doesn't set us partially free

 - 4. He takes the place of all the guilty entirely so they can enjoy His freedom entirely

 - 5. Even before Barabbas realizes what's happening, God is showing him mercy

 - 6. **2 Cor 5:21** God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

- x. Since we have free will, this is a 2 part transaction

1. Christ had to die in order for us to live
2. He is our substitute
3. He is my substitute
4. **I need to receive that free gift**
5. **1 Peter 2:24** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

15. Pilot gave in to have Jesus flogged and crucified

16. God is able to take humanity's worst and use it for His Glory

17. The most heinous forms of torture is coming and God's going to us it

- a. We serve an amazing God