

Palm Sunday: The Release of Barabbas | Matthew 27:15-23

15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. 16 And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. 17 So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18 For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. 19 Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" 23 And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

Main Idea

Though innocent, Jesus willingly took our place on the cross, securing our pardon from sin.

1. The Courtroom (v. 15)

2. The Subjects (vv.16-20)

a. Barabas, Notoriously Guilty

- i. 19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. - Luke 23:19
- ii. 40 They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. - John 18:40

b. Jesus, Notoriously Innocent

- 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, - Romans 3:23
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way... - Isaiah 53:6
- 3 They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. - Psalm 53:3
- 23 For the wages of sin is death... - Romans 6:23

3. Our Silent Substitute (vv. 21-23)

- i. 24 So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will. - Luke 23:24-25

- ii. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.- Isaiah 53:5-6
- iii. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. - 1 Peter 2:23-24