



“Friday Morning:
Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate”
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Mark 15:1-15 (NLT)

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.

Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “You have said it.”

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

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

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

They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

“Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?”

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

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.

FRIDAY MORNING AT SUNRISE

THE HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS

Jesus was convicted of blasphemy by the Sanhedrin.

Two problems:

- The Sanhedrin did not have the authority to execute.
- Pilate would not execute someone on the charge of blasphemy against God.

JESUS TAKEN TO ANTONIA FORTRESS

THE JERUSALEM HOUSE OF PILATE, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR

Location of trial before Pilate: *Lithostrotos* or “Stone Pavement”

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

Psalm 118:22 (GW)

Pilate questions Jesus:

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "You have said it."

Mark 15:2 (NLT)

Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, and Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?" But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate's surprise.

Mark 15:3-5 (NLT)

Jesus was not **resigned** to die.
He was **determined** to die.

The Suffering Servant – Isaiah 53:6-10 (NLT)

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away.

He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone.

But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.

Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.

The Suffering Servant – Isaiah 4-5 (NLT)

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;

it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

*And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,
a punishment for his own sins!*

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

Two men stand before Pilate: Jesus of Nazareth and Barabbas

- Both men charged with insurrection.
- Both men wishing to be "king of the Jews."

Jesus, who healed the sick and loved the lost

Barabbas, a murderer and thief

Barabbas was the first sinner for whom Jesus died.
The Gospel story calls us to see ourselves in the face of Barabbas.

The Costliness of Grace

As a result of understanding that cost –

- Your heart is changed by what God has done for you.
- You are moved to “Love God, Love Others, and Live Out the Gospel life” with humble gratitude.
- You are moved to never want to sin again.

Seeing Yourself as Pilate

Mark: Pilate wants to free Jesus. *“What crime has he committed?”*

Matthew: Pilate washes his hands.

“I am innocent of this man’s blood.”

Luke: Pilate sends Jesus back to King Herod. Herod send Jesus back to Pilate finding no reason to execute him.

John: Pilate has Jesus flogged hoping the crowd would change their minds.

The Saddest Line in the Passion Story

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.

Mark 15:15 (NLT)

So to pacify the crowd...

Pilate knew it was wrong. He had the power to stop it.

The crowd was yelling, “Crucify Him.”

He washes his hands and sends Jesus to the cross to pacify the crowd.

Do you see yourself in Pontius Pilate?

In a country where you will not be arrested for being a Christian, where you will not be put to death for following Jesus, are you willing to face some peer-pressure to be counted as a follower of Jesus Christ?