

Barabbas
Mark 15:6–15

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MAIN IDEA: In this text, we consider the third Roman trial that Jesus faced on the morning of His crucifixion, particularly the aspect of the trial that focused on the release of a prisoner.

OUTLINE:

- I. The Gracious Custom: A Picture of Passover's Story (6-8)
 - A. Pilate's Custom (6)
 - B. Pilate's Prisoner (7)
 - C. The Crowd's Request (8)
- II. A Graphic Choice: A Picture of Man's Sin (9-11)
- III. The Great Exchange: A Picture of Jesus' Substitution (12-15)
 - A. The Guilt of Barabbas vs. the Innocence of Jesus
 1. Barabbas' Guilt (Mt. 27:16; Mk. 15:7; Lk. 23:19; Jn. 18:40)
 2. Jesus' Innocence (Mt. 27:19; Mk. 15:14; Lk.23:15-17; Jn. 19:4)
 - B. The Pardon of the Guilty vs. the Condemnation of the Righteous

The Flagrum

- A short, wooden & leather handle with three or more leather straps.
- Woven into the straps were lead balls or sharp pieces of bone.
- Is. 53:5 – “He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.”

The Great Exchange

1. On the human level, the Jews & Romans condemned Jesus in place of Barabbas.
 - One innocent of insurrection in the place of one guilty of insurrection
2. On the divine level, God condemned His Righteous Son in the place of guilty sinners.
 - Jesus is perfectly righteous.
 - We are guilty and condemned before God and His law.
 - Through the gospel, God planned a great exchange...
 - The Righteous One is condemned & executed for the sins of the guilty.
 - The guilty are completely pardoned

BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

1. Read Isaiah 53:5. What theological truths does this verse (and the surrounding context) teach us about the coming Messiah and crucifixion and the coming Messiah and salvation/justification/redemption?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Review *The Great Exchange* above, particularly point 2. Discuss each of the subpoints and why such truths are crucial to the gospel message. What passages of Scripture teach and support these truths?
2. How do Barabbas' life and the crowds yelling for Jesus' crucifixion picture our lives before we came to faith in Christ? (See Eph. 2:1–3.) Discuss.
3. We studied Mark 15:6–15 in light of Communion Sunday. What theological truths must we keep in mind as we observe Communion every month? Why must we be mindful to always take seriously coming to the Lord's Table? Discuss.