

JOHN 18 & 19 JESUS & BARABBAS

INTRO:

- **AS we read and consider this portion of holy scripture we must tread carefully, lightly, for this is holy, holy ground.**
- **Behold God is on trial here. The holy, Almighty Creator is on trial, by His puny, irreverent creation.**
- **The Creator on trial by the Created.**
- **This is holy ground, bow your heads, hush our hearts and gaze in awe!**

READ **JN. 18:12-19:16**

- **John writes this gospel 60 years after its happening. He is now an old man, he has had years to contemplate these things.**
- **The events are etched on his memory.**
- **And with perfect recall and the aid of the Holy Spirit he writes with perfect clarity and accuracy.**
- **The history is alive to him, still present in his heart and mind.**
- **Rome had executed thousands of victims on their crosses and Jesus is just one more uncared for law breaker, criminal and traitor to Rome. Just one more of many, just another spec of unwanted humanity.**
- **The execution by crucifixion was so loathsome, so horrific that it was improper to even mention or talk about. Repulsive.**
- **It had been perfected by Rome to deliver the maximum amount of pain for the longest period of time.**
- **The agony of the hopeless sufferer would sometimes last up to 2 days.**
- **At this time it was the most painful and humiliating death invented by men.**
- **And there with Him at His crucifixion stands just a few women, and one, only one disciple.**
- **But there hangs Jesus alone, suspended between heaven and earth, rejected by heaven and unwanted by earth.**
- **There He hangs; the entertainment for the weekend while hundreds, perhaps even thousands look on.**
- **It was such a busy road that on His cross Pilot hangs the inscription in 3 languages. Jesus King of the Jews. This was His sentence!**
- **Here Rome displays what will happen to all traitors, to any who would do treason. Do not mess with Rome!**

THE TRIAL:

- **See Mk.10:33, 34.**
- **The outcome of this trial was the greatest injustice, misuse of law and power every witnessed in the history of the world.**
- **Here the Holy One was condemned as a blasphemer, He who had the witness of the Father, "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. This is the living Word of God, He who spoke, "God is not a man that He should lie." (Num. 23:19)**
- **Liars bore false witness against Him who was the Truth. He who is the resurrection and the Life was condemned to death by men whom He created.**
- **The religious leaders of Israel, the chief priests, elders and scribes, stir up the people to demand the execution of Jesus.**
 - **Mt. 27:20, Mk. 15:11**
- **They are so corrupt and bent on having their opposition silenced that they seek out liars, *false* witnesses to testify their lies to Pilot.**
 - **Mt. 26:59, Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,**
- **These leaders would pressure the mob who would pressure the Roman authorities to do the priests will.**
- **The release of one prisoner during the Passover was a favor Rome had granted the Jewish nation to try to appease and pacify them.**
- **What a contrast we see in Caiaphas sitting on his earthly throne presuming to judge Jesus, the eternal judge, (Mt. 26:64)**
- **The one Great eternal High Priest, Who will be seen sitting on the right hand (authority) of the Father with all judgment and authority.**
- **Caiaphas will one day stand before this mighty Nazarene and be judged.**
- **VS. 28, Notice the hypocrisy of these blind religious fanatics as they refuse to enter the judgment hall lest they be defiled and forfeit their opportunity to partake of the Passover lamb, while condemning to death the true Passover Lamb.**
- **They understood nothing about life in God, only the law.**

BARABBAS:

- Barabbas was a man on death row.
- Barabbas a true enemy of Rome who was an insurrectionist, a traitor, guilty of treason against Rome. Hated by all.
- He was a terrorist, robber and a murderer. Mt, Mk and Acts.
- **Mk. 15:7**, Most likely the two men crucified with Jesus were partners of Barabbas. Traitors to Rome' convicted and chained with him and who like Barabbas were sentenced to execution by crucifixion.
- In fact it is most likely that the cross which Christ was crucified on was the cross meant for Barabbas.
- In choosing Barabbas we have a picture of the exchange between the guilty and the innocent. The Savior dying in the place of the sinner, the criminal for the Christ.
- The one hopeless and deserving of death being set free and the innocent Prince of life being put to death.
 - (Gal. 3:13, 1 Peter 3:18, Rom. 5:8)
- And yet the sentence is true and just for Christ became sin for us, (2 Cor. 5:21) all the sin of His people were put upon Him, all the sin, yours, mine.
 - Heb. 9:28, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

THE EXCHANGE:

- Israel exchanged the blameless Son of God, their Messiah; He of Whom Pilot would say 3 times, "I find no fault in Him."
- Even the demons cried out and confessed Him as the "Holy One of Israel.
- Consider the good works Jesus did, healing the blind, the lame, the deaf, the leper, delivering many from demons, the raising from the dead.
- He who was holy and harmless, Acts. 10:38, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- What a sin that the priceless Son of God, the perfect one Who only blessed Israel but here loses the popular vote to one they hated.
- But as Jesus prophesied in Lk. 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this *man* to reign over us.'
- JN. 1:10, 11, He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His ^[a]own, and His ^[b]own did not receive Him.
 - **Lk. 23:13-25**
- Jesus the perfect Son of God, the second person of the Trinity is displayed humiliated before His own and then put up to a popular vote and loses.
- So Barabbas goes free and Jesus to the cross.
- What was going through Barabbas's mind?

CONCLUSION:

- **Barabbas: son of the father or son of a father.**
- **What an imposter, an anti-Christ. What a pretender.**
- **Yet we also are Barabbas's, but by the love and grace of God we have become sons of the Father. We who were once aliens, without hope..**
 - **Eph. 2:11-18**
- **In order to secure our redemption, the Father had to treat Jesus like Barabbas so He could treat us like Jesus.**
- **Look in the mirror, I am Barabbas, you are Barabbas. But Jesus went to the cross for us, took our shame and sin and in exchange gave us His righteousness and standing with the Father.**
- **See Jesus standing there before the mob, standing before blind and dumb sinful fallen humanity. Full of rebellion and godlessness, hear Him say, "I will die in your place, I will take your place that you might take my place. I will die that you may live.**
- **We like Barabbas have been chained, bound and with a death sentence on our heads, But God..**
 - **Rom. 5:8, But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- **Has Jesus set me free? Have you been set free?**

**On merit not my own I stand;
On doings which I have not done,
Merit beyond what I can claim,
Doings more perfect than my own.**

**Upon a life I have not lived,
Upon a death I did not die,
Another's life, Another's death,
I stake my whole eternity.**

**Not on the tears which I have shed:
Not on the sorrows I have known,
Another's tears, Another's griefs,
On them I rest, on them alone.**

MAN OF SORROWS

VBS MEETING... NOW!