

# Pilate on Trial

## Mark 15:1-15

**The Servant King** #48 Noah Largent 3/3/13

Mark 15:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so," Jesus replied. <sup>3</sup> The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." <sup>5</sup> But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. <sup>6</sup> Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup> A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. <sup>8</sup> The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. <sup>9</sup> "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup> knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup> "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. <sup>13</sup> "Crucify him!" they shouted. <sup>14</sup> "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup> Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.



The story of the *King*... who came to *serve*.

### Background

- ▶ Wanting to execute Jesus the religious leaders take Jesus to Pontius Pilate. - Mark 15:1; Matt. 27:1; Luke 23:1; John 18:28
- ▶ Experiencing remorse, Judas returns the 30 pieces of silver. -Matt. 27:3-5
- ▶ Not wanting to "defile" themselves, the religious leaders refuse to enter Pilate's palace. -John 18:28
- ▶ Pilate finds no fault with Jesus. -Mark 14:14; Luke 23:13, Matt. 27:23
- ▶ The religious leaders accuse Jesus of being a King. An act of treason. -Luke 23:1
- ▶ Pilate understands the religious leaders are motivated by jealousy. -Mark. 15:10
- ▶ 3 times Pilate attempts to dismiss Jesus' case. -Mark 15:14; Luke 23:22; John 19:4
- ▶ Pilate pass Jesus on to Herod, hoping Herod will dismiss the case. -Luke 23:6-11,15
- ▶ Believing the people will take Jesus instead of Barabbas, Pilate tries again to acquit Jesus. -Matt. 27:15
- ▶ Pilate hands Jesus over to be scourged. -Mark 15:15; Matt. 27:26; John 19:1

*"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important." -CS.. Lewis, God in the Dock pg.101*

### 3 Lessons from Pilate's Trial

#### **1. "What is truth?"-Jn 15:38**

Truth is our compass. It helps us navigate in the midst of life's storms.

#### **2. Barabbas: the great exchange. -Mark 15:1-12**

The story of Barabbas (Son of the Father) invites us to see Jesus' crucifixion in terms of a *stark personal exchange*. Barabbas deserves to die; Jesus dies instead, and Barabbas goes free.

#### **3. Pilate e³ the religious leaders common bond. -Mk 15:1-12**

Ultimately both are more concerned about what they have to *loose* than what the have to *gain* by surrendering to God.

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