

Barabbas was guilty and deserved to die. Jesus was innocent and offered the Kingdom of God through life, healing and forgiveness. The people chose to exchange Jesus for Barabbas. They may have seen Barabbas as a strong leader who could lead them in overthrowing the Roman oppressors. But Barabbas was not their savior, and Pilate wasn't Jesus' savior either.

*23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23*

*How did the exchange of Jesus' life for Barabbas reveal the true nature of God, and of Jesus, and fulfill the requirements of Romans 6:23? In what ways are we Barabbas?*

From the moment Man was separated from God by sin in the garden, there was a plan in place to redeem us and restore that relationship. Our sin is costly and the price is our death. Our only hope is to exchange our sinful life for the innocent blood of Jesus. Jesus loves us enough to endure crucifixion so that we could have eternal life as children of God. The empty tomb opened the door to our salvation, but the path must go through Calvary.

### **WRAP-UP**

Mark describes Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate, highlighting the clash between political power, religious authority, and God's redemptive plan. The Jewish leaders, motivated by envy and fear, accused Jesus of blasphemy before the Sanhedrin and then reframed the charges politically to present Him to Rome as a rival king. Though Pilate questioned Him about being "King of the Jews," Jesus affirmed His identity without aligning Himself to earthly agendas, remaining silent in fulfillment of prophecy as the suffering servant described in Isaiah. While the crowd chose to free Barabbas—an actual rebel—and demanded Jesus' crucifixion, this exchange revealed God's sovereign plan of salvation: the innocent dying in place of the guilty. Echoing the truth that God is both loving and just, the passage shows that through Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection, God offers redemption, exchanging our sin and death for His righteousness and eternal life.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*12 "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. 13 "Crucify him!" they shouted. - Mark 15:12-35 NIV*

### **Challenge –**

*Spend time this week in reflection of the cost of your salvation and have an personal conversation with God as you realize the magnitude of His love for you.*

## **Messiah, King, Savior Gospel of Mark Ch. 14 - Week 5**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Our study in Mark's Gospel is drawing us closer to the cross as we watch the dramatic events of Jesus before Pontius Pilate. Jesus is a threat to both the religious and political ideologies of the day. Their interrogation focuses on Jesus' identity. The supreme Jewish legislative, judicial, and administrative council (Sanhedrin) were seeking to convict Him of blasphemy if He claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God. However, the Roman rulers were more concerned with the claim He was King of the Jews which would be a threat to Caesar. But Jesus wasn't aligned with a religious or political agenda. He was aligned with the heart of the Father who had sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

### **Ice Breaker**

*Are you saved? If so, explain what the term "salvation" means to you.*

### **Key Passages**

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

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Politics and Theology**

*1 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. - Mark 14:1 NIV*

Days before His arrest the Jewish leaders were scheming to have Jesus killed. After Jesus' arrest they took Him first to the High Priest. The Sanhedrin was concerned with Jesus declaring He's the Messiah which is blasphemy and punishable by death under Jewish law. But under Roman occupation, they were subject to Roman Law, and only the Romans had the authority to put a criminal to death, so they transferred Jesus to Pilate, a Roman official.

*1 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. ... 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. - Mark 15:1, 10 NIV*

*The Jewish officials should have been carrying out the Jewish laws and religious obligations, but what does verse 10 reveal was their underlying motive when they relinquished control of Jesus to the Romans? Why do you think they felt threatened if Jesus was in fact the Messiah?*

*2 "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so," Jesus replied. - Mark 15:2 NIV*

*14 and [Pilate] said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. - Luke 23:14 NIV*

Pilate wasn't concerned with Jesus religious claims, but he was politically concerned with a rebellion and loss of power if the Jews made Jesus their King.

*What was Jesus' reply to Pilate's question? How does John 18:36-37 explain why Jesus didn't simply say- Yes I am a king?*

*36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." 37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." - John 18:36-37 NIV*

## 2. Alignment

Despite their many accusations Jesus made no attempt to defend Himself. He was not aligned with the religious nor political agendas. Jesus knew His mission and purpose, and He was aligned with the heart of God the Father in that purpose.

*3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." 5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. - Mark 15:3-5 NIV*

*7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. - Isaiah 53:7 NIV*

*16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. - John 3:16-17 NIV*

Jesus was the suffering servant, willing to lay down His life. His silence had been prophesied by Isaiah.

*Why is it significant the Isaiah likens God's "servant" to a lamb led to the slaughter? How was the true meaning of all of the Passover observances ever celebrated coming to life before their eyes that day? How does John 3:16-17 demonstrate that God was sovereign over the proceedings that day and the Father's heart was being revealed?*

## 3. Salvation

*6 Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. 7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. 9 "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. - Mark 15:6-11 NIV*

*17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." - John 10:17-18 NIV*

After his interrogation of Jesus, Pilate made a customary offer to release a prisoner. Pilate may have thought he was offering to save Jesus, but that was not God's plan. The alternative was to release Barabbas. Barabbas had been imprisoned for murder and insurrection. But at the urging of the priests the people called for release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus.