



The Criminal and The King

Quest Book: Chapter 47

Matthew 27:11-26

A. The Character of Pilate

1. Pilate marveled at Jesus.

“Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, ‘Are You the king of the Jews?’ ‘You have said so,’ Jesus replied. When He was accused by the chief priests and the elders, He gave no answer. Then Pilate asked Him, ‘Don’t You hear the testimony they are bringing against You?’ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.”

Matthew 27:11-14 (NIV)

2. Pilate compromised the truth.

“Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, ‘Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus Who is called the Messiah?’ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.”

Matthew 27:15-18 (NIV)

3. Pilate was warned about Jesus.

“While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him a message: ‘Don’t have anything to do with that innocent Man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of Him.’ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ‘Which of the two do you want me to release to

you?’ asked the governor. ‘Barabbas,’ they answered.”

Matthew 27:19-21 (NIV)

4. Pilate sought the wrong opinion.

“What shall I do, then, with Jesus Who is called the Messiah?’ Pilate asked. They all answered, ‘Crucify Him!’ ‘Why? What crime has He committed?’ asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify Him!’”

Matthew 27:22-23 (NIV)

5. Pilate wanted to be innocent.

“When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. ‘I am innocent of this Man’s blood,’ he said. ‘It is your responsibility!’ All the people answered, ‘His blood is on us and on our children!’ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.”

Matthew 27:24-26 (NIV)

B. The Character of Barabbas

1. Barabbas means, “son of the father.”

“Bar”- Son of

“Abba”- my/the Father

2. Barabbas was a convicted murderer.

“A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising.” Mark 15:7 (NIV)

3. Barabbas was chosen by the crowd.

“But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’? They shouted back, ‘No, not Him! Give us Barabbas!’ Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.”

John 18:39-40 (NIV)

C. The “Us” in this Story

1. There is a temptation to choose Pilate’s neutrality towards Christ.

“Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.” Luke 11:23 (NIV)

2. There is a temptation to choose Jesus Barabbas, like the crowd did.

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.”

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (NIV)

3. There is a temptation to reject the love of Christ. The reality: We are all Barabbas.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (NIV)

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

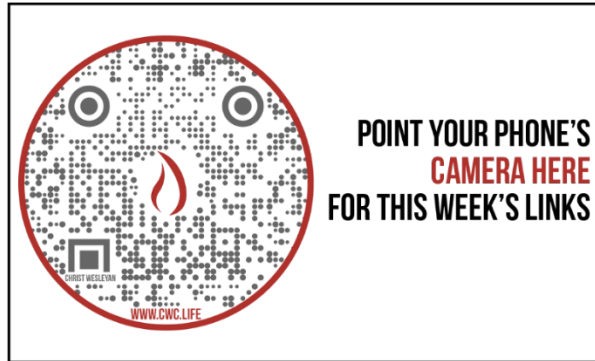
Bottom Line:

We are all Barabbas.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: “Jesus” to 570-273-0088

Next Sunday: Reign
Week 9: The King is Crowned
Quest Book: Chapter 48
Milton Campus: Pastor Billy Robel
Sunbury Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 46.6% of goal

Giving year to date: 77.1% of goal

Attendance Last Weekend: 1,975

Salvations to date: 236 | Baptisms to date: 92

“Reach the One” Campaign Update

152 - Pledges

\$1,837,504.25 - Donations Anticipated by Nov. 2027

\$855,247.93 - Received Donations – 20% of \$4M Goal

Want to pledge, donate, or learn more?

Scan the QR code below:



Upcoming Happenings:

Sunday, **April 6:** Membership Class / 12:30p

Interested? *Stop by the HUB after service.*

Sunday, **April 6:** Membership voting for leadership positions at CWC.

Fri-Sun, **April 18-20** Easter Weekend:

Milton Campus:

April 18: Good Friday Service @ 7p Youth Center

April 19: Service @ 6p Auditorium

April 20: Sunrise Service @ 6:30a East Parking Lot

April 20: Services @ 9a and 10:45a Auditorium

Sunbury Campus:

April 20: Services 9:00a and 11:00a

Online Campus:

April 19: Service 6p

April 20: Services 9a, 10:45a, & 7p

Saturday, **May 3 @ 5:30p:** Father/Son Burger Burn
Mushroom Parking Lot & Youth Center

Sunday, **May 4 @ 6:00:** Local Church Conference
The Well Coffee House

Wednesday **May 7 @ 6:30:** Worship Onboarding
Milton Campus Auditorium

Notetakers are History Makers