

EASTER SERIES
Easter Through Barabbas Eyes, Part 2 of 5
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Introduction

When preparing this series I was thinking on different people that are mentioned in the gospels that either somehow played a part or were an eyewitness to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In preparing for this message I realized that you can say everything there is to say in the Bible about Barabbas in one sentence; if you really stretch it out you can say about two sentences. That's probably why you haven't heard very many sermons about Barabbas.

I like watching TV shows like Law and Order where at the end of the show the bad guy is caught and justice is served. There is just something within us that cries out against injustice. (Many of us were just furious when we watched the O.J. Simpson trial and watched the Jury come back with a not guilty verdict.)

Background of what was going in this passage of scripture.

Jesus has been arrested by the religious police he is brought before the high priest the scribes and the elders but the Jews had no power to put a man to death. They arrested Jesus for blasphemy that he claimed to be God. But in order to take Jesus to Pilate they charged him with treason, that He claimed to be king.

Pilate had no interest in dealing with Jesus. The only reason he dealt with this issue was because of the large mob of people that were shouting to crucify Jesus.

Then Pilate thought he had come up with a plan to make the people release Jesus. Pilate's wife was warning Pilate to have nothing to do with Jesus she called him a righteous man.

Then Pilate remembers a man by the name of Barabbas that was being held in prison.

Matthew says that Barabbas was a notorious prisoner,

Mark says that he was a murderer **Mark 15:7**

John says that he was a robber in **John 18:40**

So you get the picture that Barabbas was an evil man who had committed much sin in his life

Now the prison was about 2000 feet away from where Jesus was being tried.

So all Barabbas can hear is the crowd, he cannot make out what Pilate is saying.

Pilate says which man you want me to release. Barabbas or Jesus

The crowd shouts Barabbas”

Pilate says what will I do with Jesus.

The crowd shouts “Crucify him!”

From what Barabbas can hear he thinks he is about to be crucified.

They come to open up the cell to get Barabbas and as they do they tell him to go he is now free

Free to GO? Yes someone else is dying today in your place.

Barabbas was a sinner.

Whether we want to admit it or not Barabbas identifies everyone of us. The Bible says that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God in **Romans 3:23**

And Just like Barabbas we were sitting bound in prison with a death sentence placed upon us. Now we may have never done anything as bad as Barabbas, murder, or stealing but sin is sin in the eyes of God, **Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by**

sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Barabbas deserved to be punished

Barabbas was a murderer and a thief, he had already been convicted of those crimes and under the law he deserved to die.

Gen 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed:... for in the image of God made he man.

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

The moment that Adam and Eve disobeyed God a death sentence was placed upon all of humanity one that Adam and Eve passed down to you and I.

Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Barabbas desired to be released

Gal 3:23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.

Eph 4:8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

We have heard a lot over the years about different people being taken hostage in Iraq and Afghanistan. This past week 3 members of the Christian peacemaker team, a group that is in Iraq protesting the war, were rescued by American and British forces after being held captive for four months.

The sad thing is when this org. released a press statement they never once mentioned the men who freed them. Instead they reported the story saying that they were let go and that condemn America for being in Iraq.

That's exactly what some have done to Jesus he came to set us free, paid the ultimate price on the cross and yet some fail to even acknowledge him.

Barabbas discovered redemption

Who was it that placed Jesus on the cross, was it the roman soliders, was it Judas, was it Pilate, was it the crowd shouting crucify. It was my sin. Jesus went to the cross for sinners, and as the Apostle Paul said, of whom I am chief.

In the Old Testament we are told **In Leviticus 17** that on the day of atonement the priest would go in and offer a sacrifice for his sins and then he would take two goats and they would cast lots the one goat would be killed for a sacrifice for the peoples sins and then the other goat they would place there hands on and transfer their sins to the goat and send it off into the wilderness it became the scapegoat.

When Jesus went to the cross he took all of our sins and took all the fathers punishment for our sins.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Rev 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

God treated Jesus on the cross as if he had committed all the sins of the world. Though he never committed one sin.

Conclusion

God treats us today as though we are righteous even though we still sin.

The words to that song written by Elvina Hall Jesus Paid it all
Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.
For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim,
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

Refrain

And now complete in Him
My robe His righteousness,
Close sheltered 'neath His side,
I am divinely blest.

What Barabbas discovered that day was Grace, and how amazing the grace
of God is