Pilate's Choice

Greg Kline · Matthew 27:11–26

INTRODUCTION

- Why would the Jews not just accept Jesus?
- Not because the Jews overpowered Jesus or they overthrew the plan of God, but because it was God's plan from all the beginning of the world.
- Even Pilate recognized Jesus was handed over because of envy, not because of any wrong that he did.

1 Barabbas, a Notorious Prisoner

John 18:40; Mark 15:7

- They cried out again, not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.
- And among the rebels in prison who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas.
- So we learn more about this thief, this notorious prisoner. He was a murderer involved in insurrection.

2 They Did Not Accept Jesus as King

Matthew 27:18; John 18:33–38; Matthew 19:16–22

- These people could not accept Jesus as king because they were not willing to live out what that confession would mean.
- Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting that I might not be delivered over to the Jews.
- What do you do with the king? You follow his edicts. You submit to His rule.
- Accepting Jesus as king doesn't mean just keeping some commandments. This rich young man could do that.
- Do I accept Jesus as king just in word? Because it sounds nice? Because I know I'm supposed to? Or indeed?

3 Persuaded: It's Easier to Be With Everyone Else

Galatians 1:10; John 12:42–43; Acts 17:11

- The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to destroy Jesus.
- It's not a coincidence that the religious leaders influenced the people, and the people submitted to their rule. It's easier to be with everyone else.
- For am I now seeking the approval of man or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.
- But for fear of the Pharisees, they did not confess it. For they love the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.
- If Jesus has said it, take it and go. If man says it, examine it.

- It doesn't matter what's easiest, it matters what's right.

4 Their Minds Were Closed to the Truth

Matthew 27:21–25; Matthew 13:10–17

- There was no logical reason for Jesus to be crucified. The truth was their minds were closed to the truth.
- It didn't matter what miracle Jesus worked or what teaching he had, or what old Testament prophecy he cited. They had closed their mind to truth.
- If we close our minds to the truth, if we close our mind to hearing and discussing with those in error, or those who are truthful, are we any better than those who close their minds and hearts to truth?
- For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed.
- God didn't make the Jews reject Jesus. They chose to reject him out of envy, jealousy, frustration.

5 Imagine How You Would Feel If You Were Barabbas

- When we stand next to Jesus and we look at our lives, we can see that we have been wretchedly involved in sin.
- Without Jesus, we stand there guilty, stuck in our sins.
- Because Jesus was crucified, because it was God's plan that Jesus be crucified and put to death at the hands of these vicious, vile and evil chief priests and rulers, we can stand free.
- We need to be thankful each and every day, each and every morning, each and every afternoon and night for Jesus and his sacrifice.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Submit to Jesus. Don't choose sin. It may sound easier, it may be easier for now, but for all of eternity, it will not be easy nor light. Choose to be with God forever.**

MY NOTES