**Sermon Notes**

**“Jesus, Pilate, and Barabbas”**

**Mark 15:1–15**

**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. 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.**

v. 1 Pilate is a Roman governor of Judea, and the reason why Jesus is handed over to him is that only Rome can execute criminals.

v. 2 see John 19:12

12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. *Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”*

v. 7 Barabbas is called a “notorious prisoner” in Matthew 27:16.

v. 12 see Matthew 27:24

**Jesus and Barabbas**

Jesus didn’t just save us *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* Barabbas’s; Jesus saved us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

Galatians 3:26
26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

Galatians 4:4–7
4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, *“Abba*, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

2 Corinthians 5:21
21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the most interesting/new/stimulating/challenging aspect of the message for you?

2. What attributes of God were stated in or implied by the message?

3. What does John praise God for in 1 John 3:1? How does Sunday’s message help you understand this passage in a fresh way?

4. As you listened, what relationships, life experiences, or circumstances came to mind? Why?

5. In what ways do you live from a desire to “satisfy the crowd” instead of faithfully following Jesus? How can others pray for you in these struggles?

6. How is our identity connected to how we live? Discuss the implications of your answer for discipleship and growth in Christ.

7. What personal application of the message has the Lord shown you?