

# BARABBAS

Barabbas... the first of the redeemed. Although Barabbas wasn't spiritually redeemed as far as we know, he was the first whose physical life was spared in exchange for Jesus'. Luke 23 tells a version of the story.

*<sup>13</sup> Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, <sup>14</sup> and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing Him of leading a revolt. I have examined Him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find Him innocent. <sup>15</sup> Herod came to the same conclusion and sent Him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. <sup>16</sup> So I will have Him flogged, and then I will release Him." <sup>17</sup> (Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd.) <sup>18</sup> Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, "Kill Him, and release Barabbas to us!" <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas was in prison for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup> Pilate argued with them, because he wanted to release Jesus. <sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" <sup>22</sup> For the third time he demanded, "Why? What crime has He committed? I have found no reason to sentence Him to death. So, I will have Him flogged, and then I will release Him." <sup>23</sup> But the mob shouted louder and louder, demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. <sup>25</sup> As they requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he turned Jesus over to them to do as they wished. **-Luke 23:13-25***

## APPLICATION

The insurrectionist and murder set free in exchange for an innocent man. It completely defies all logic. Based on his crimes, there is no way Barabbas should have ever been let off death row, except to be put to death. And Jesus' only "crime" was showing up the religious leaders. Over and over, year after year, this same story continues to shock the minds of those of us who read it. But that's what our Savior came to do.

Just as shocking and undeserved, is the fact that He continues to do it for us as well. For our sins, we deserve death and eternal separation from God. But we too are redeemed by Jesus' sacrifice. Barabbas was physically pardoned for his crimes. We are eternally pardoned from our sins. Thank You, Jesus!

## DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION

- What are you doing with the pardon that's being extended to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If you haven't already, accept the freedom Jesus offers by confessing your sins and accepting Christ's gift of salvation.

## D6-CUSSION

Pray a prayer thanking God for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and giving us new life.

- What stands out to you the most?
  
- What questions do you have?
  
- What is an application for your life?

## PRAYERS & PRAISE