

Book Study – Matthew 26:69-27:26

Peter Disowns Jesus – Judas Hangs Himself – Jesus Before Pilate

Before We Begin Our Journey...

1. What does loyalty mean to you? Or...What are some ways people try to deal with guilt?
2. What is the most ingenious or creative excuse you have heard someone give in an attempt to avoid responsibility?

Do Some Digging and Pre-planning...

3. Who approached Peter? Why? (26:69) How did Peter respond to the person’s question? (26:70)
4. What happened when Peter denied knowing Christ? (26:74-75)
5. How did Judas feel when he saw that Jesus had been condemned to die? (27:3)
6. How did the religious leaders act when they heard Judas express second thoughts? (27:4)
7. Why was Judas’s suicide significant? (27:9-10)
8. How can we avoid (or break out of) a downward spiral of sin, guilt, depression, more sin, greater guilt, deeper depression, etc.?
9. What did the crowd ask Pilate to do to Christ? (27:22)
10. How did Pilate attempt to evade any responsibility in the condemnation of Jesus? (27:24)
11. What happened to the two prisoners—Barabbas and Jesus? (27:26)

Sort, Organize, Gain Understanding...

12. When do you find you are most tempted to downplay or even deny your Christian beliefs?
13. When has your faith in Jesus cost you something? Hmm...
14. How can we avoid (or break out of) a downward spiral of sin, guilt, depression, more sin, greater guilt, deeper depression, etc.?
15. What decisions have you been putting off for fear of the responsibility? And what helps you face your responsibilities?



Application for the Journey...

16. Whom might you be able to engage in a conversation about Jesus Christ this week?
17. What can you do today or tomorrow to encourage a friend who is feeling especially low because of a bad or sinful choice?
18. What decision do you need to make today and then take responsibility for?



A prayer for your journey... “Lord Jesus, as I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself. Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life.” -Amen

Direction Finder...



Thoughts about the cost of your relationship with Christ...

I will... _____

Barabbas

Meaning: son of Abba or of a father

Barabbas was a notorious robber whom [Pilate](#) proposed to condemn to death instead of [Jesus](#), whom he wished to release, in accordance with the [Roman](#) custom ([John 18:40](#); [Mark 15:7](#); [Luke 23:19](#)). But many Jewish leaders and their followers were so bent on the death of Jesus that they demanded that Barabbas should be pardoned ([Matt. 27:16-26](#); [Acts 3:14](#)). This Pilate did. He was also known as [Jesus](#) Barabbas.

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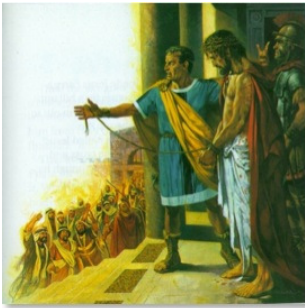
Barabbas was the prisoner who was released by Pontius Pilate instead of Jesus. Pilate, who was the Roman governor presiding over the Judea, offered to release one Jewish prisoner in honor of Passover. Presented with the choice, the crowds that had gathered chose Barabbas for release. And the crowds chose Jesus to be the one who would be put to death. Barabbas is mentioned in all four Gospels during their descriptions of the trial of Jesus. In Luke 23:19, Barabbas is listed as being in prison for murder and for having started an insurrection in Jerusalem against the Roman government. The name "Barabbas" consists of "bar," which can mean son, and "abbas," which can mean father or master. "Abbas" continues to be a common surname in the Middle East.

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1. [Matthew 27:16](#) At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner, called **Barabbas**.
2. [Matthew 27:17](#) So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you? **Barabbas**, or Jesus who is called Christ?"
3. [Matthew 27:20](#) But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for **Barabbas** and to put Jesus to death.
4. [Matthew 27:21](#) But the governor said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "**Barabbas**."
5. [Matthew 27:26](#) Then he released **Barabbas** for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.
6. [Mark 15:7](#) The man named **Barabbas** had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection.
7. [Mark 15:11](#) But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask him to release **Barabbas** for them instead.
8. [Mark 15:15](#) Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released **Barabbas** for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.
9. [Luke 23:18](#) But they cried out all together, saying, " Away with this man, and release for us **Barabbas!**"
10. [John 18:40](#) So they cried out again, saying, " Not this Man, but **Barabbas**." Now **Barabbas** was a robber.

Jesus and Barabbas (one writer's view - © 2009 Larry Gerndt – emergingtruths.com)



Pilate gave the Jews a choice between Jesus and Barabbas. But did you know that Barabbas' first name was also Jesus? This detail isn't mentioned in the King James version, but is in the New Revised Standard Version. While it's an interesting coincidence that Barabbas's first name was Jesus, wait till you hear the rest. First, here's the entire story, as written in the New Revised Standard Version.

Matthew 27:11-26 (New Revised Standard)

"Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, Are you the King of the Jews? Jesus said, You say so. But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you? But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah? For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, Which of the two do you want me to release for you? And they said, Barabbas. Pilate said to them, Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah? All of them said, Let him be crucified! Then he asked, Why, what evil has he done? But they shouted all the more, Let him be crucified! So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves. Then the people as a whole answered, His blood be on us and on our children! So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified."

Not only was Barabbas's first name Jesus, but his last name, Barabbas, means **son (bar) of the father (abba)**. Jesus had referred to himself as the Son of the Father (and his adversaries had refused to acknowledge that he was). So now we had two men named Jesus, each a "son of the father", but opposite fathers, it would seem. Jesus was an innocent man about to be murdered, and Barabbas was a murderer about to be set free. During an incident prior to this day, Jesus, when he knew that they sought to kill him, made this statement to them:

John 8:44 *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do."* He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

It would seem then, that by this coincidence, their choice between God and the devil was being reflected back at them in a magnified way.

Note from Les: This information is not based upon scientific or "serious" research. I include this information only to stir your mind to research available information and reflect on the truth of God's Word.