

Pilate offers a straight CHOICE between JESUS and BARABBAS.

- * Jesus is HOLY, KIND & WISE.
- * Barabbas is VIOLENT, ANGRY & GUILTY.

→ *What do we know about Barabbas? What do we know about Pilate?*

THE REVELATION: Barabbas REPRESENTS YOU & ME

* Just as Jesus the INNOCENT died in place of Barabbas the GUILTY, just as Barabbas WALKS FREE while Jesus is bound, flogged and crucified IN HIS PLACE, so, extraordinarily, WE get SET FREE, while Jesus DIES our DEATH (Romans 3:23-25).

* This is the miracle of GRACE and the beauty of GOSPEL.

→ *In what senses are we like Barabbas? Presumably we're not violent revolutionaries, guilty of murder! But, how does he represent us in the gospel story?*

→ *How is the releasing of Barabbas representative of gospel grace?*

THE OTHERS

It should have been SIMON of CYRENE on that cross, not Jesus.

The religious leaders DIDN'T SEE IT AT ALL.

→ *Why didn't the religious leaders and teachers get it? After all, they knew the scriptures. What was blinding them to the truth? How do you think you would have dealt with Jesus had you been in their shoes back then?*

One of the two THIEVES started to recognise what was going on.

What about the WOMEN waiting at the crucifixion site?

What about JOSEPH of ARIMATHEA who laid Jesus IN HIS OWN TOMB?

WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT MOMENT OF SUBSTITUTION?

1. Because He took my place, I have ETERNAL LIFE

- * Theological word = SAVED (John 3:16, Romans 6:23)

2. Because He took my place, I am FORGIVEN

- * Theological word = JUSTIFIED (Ephesians 1:7, Romans 3:23-24, 1 John 1:9, Romans 8:1-2)

3. Because He took my place, I am FREE

- * Theological word = REDEEMED (Ephesians 1:7, Galatians 3:13-14, John 8:36, Galatians 5:1)

4. Because He took my place, I have RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- * Theological word = RIGHTEOUS (2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:16)

5. Because He took my place, I am CLEAN

- * Theological word = SANCTIFIED (Colossians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:4)

6. Because He took my place, I am a CHILD OF GOD

- * Theological word = ADOPTED (Galatians 4:4-7)

7. Because He took my place, I am ON THE VICTORY SIDE

- * Colossians 2:15, Matthew 28:18, 1 Corinthians 15:57

→ *Before Barabbas walked free and Jesus was crucified, they each sat on a very different side of the fence. Barabbas needed all seven of these; Jesus had them all but gave them up. Discuss!*

→ *Do you live in the reality of all seven of these? Any you need to increase in? Any you struggle with? Which is most meaningful to you?*

→ *If you have time, look up all the verses listed in here and read all that you now have in Christ. Anything else, not included in the list of seven jump out to you?*