

**Matt. 27:11-26:** Now Jesus stood before the governor, & the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>15</sup> Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> & they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup> For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup> Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests & the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas & destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" & they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> & he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water & washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> & all the people answered, "His blood be on us & on our children!" <sup>26</sup> Then he released for them Barabbas, & having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**Intro:** Last time we were in Matthew's Gospel, we saw the tragic death of Judas, the man who betrayed Jesus. Today, we see Jesus stand trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Jesus is on the way to the cross! Jesus is King; Jesus fulfills prophecy; men are wicked; Jesus is our substitute; Jesus is righteous; Jesus was unjustly condemned, scourged, & crucified.

Righteous King Jesus is the Yes & Amen to all God's promises, & He was crucified as a substitute to save sinners!

### **1. Jesus Is King**

**Matt. 27:11, 17, 22:** Now Jesus stood before the governor, & the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." . . . <sup>17</sup> So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" . . . <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

**a. Jesus is King in our text:** 1) Pilate asks: "Are you the **King** of the Jews?"; 2) Pilate says: "Jesus who is called **Christ**?"; 3) Pilate says again: "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called **Christ**?"

**b. Jesus is King in this chapter:** Four times Jesus is called "King" in chap. 27. There is a concentration of Jesus being called "King" or questioned about being King in all four Gospels at His trial & at the cross!

**c. Jesus is King of a Kingdom that is not of this world & the King of truth: Jn. 18:33-37:** So Pilate entered his headquarters again & called Jesus & said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation & the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> 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. But my kingdom is not from the world." <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born & for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

**d. Jesus is God:** Who is the King of the Jews – the King of Israel? **Isa. 44:6:** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel & His Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first & I am the last; besides me there is no god."

- **Rev. 1:17-18:** Fear not, I am the first & the last, & the living one. I died, & behold I am alive forevermore, & I have the keys of Death & Hades.

- **Rev. 17:14:** They will make war on the Lamb, & the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings

- **Isa. 9:6-7:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; & the government shall be upon his shoulder, & his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government & of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David & over his kingdom, to establish it & to uphold it with justice & with righteousness from this time forth & forevermore.

- **Luke 1:32-33:** He will be great & will be called the Son of the Most High. & the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, & he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of his kingdom there will be no end.

- **J. L. Reynolds:** WHEN Christ uttered, in the judgment hall of Pilate, the remarkable words? "I am a king," he pronounced a sentiment fraught with unspeakable dignity & power. His enemies might deride his pretensions & express their mockery of his claim, by presenting him with a crown of thorns, a reed & a purple robe, & nailing him to the cross; but in the eyes of unfallen intelligences, he was a king. A higher power presided over that derisive ceremony, & converted it into a real coronation. That crown of thorns was indeed the diadem of empire; that purple robe was the badge of royalty; that fragile reed was the symbol of unbounded power; & that cross the throne of dominion which shall never end.

**e. Do you know my King?:** If Jesus is God & King, you should submit to Him in everything! Pilate tried to be neutral, but you can't be neutral with Jesus. Jesus is not just a good person. This King protects & provides!

## **2. Jesus Fulfills Prophecy**

**Matt. 27:12-14:** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer.<sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?"<sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

**Isa. 53:7:** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Jesus was silent because He loves sinners! Jesus was silent because He loves you!

Righteous King Jesus is the Yes & Amen to all God's promises, & He was crucified as a substitute to save sinners!

## **3. Men Are Wicked**

**Matt. 27:12, 17-18, 20-26:** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer . . .<sup>17</sup> So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"<sup>18</sup> For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up . . .<sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests & the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas & destroy Jesus.<sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" & they said, "Barabbas."<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"<sup>23</sup> & he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water & washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."<sup>25</sup> & all the people answered, "His blood be on us & on our children!"<sup>26</sup> Then he released for them Barabbas, & having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**a. See the wickedness of men:** 1) V. 12: Jesus is falsely accused; 2) V. 17: Pilate knew it was out of envy that they delivered him up; 3) V. 20: the chief priests & elders persuaded the crown to ask for Barabbas & destroy Jesus; 4) V. 21: the crowd chooses Barabbas; 5) V. 22: they cry out for Jesus to be crucified; 6) V. 24: the crowd was going to riot over this!; 7) V. 24: Pilate in cowardice, condemns the innocent & does injustice; 7) V. 25: the people seem to rejoice in having Jesus' blood on their own them & on their children; 8) V. 26: they let a criminal go free & crucified the LORD of glory!

**b. Who killed Jesus?:** chief priests & elders – Jewish leaders; Gentiles – Roman soldiers; Judas; Jews: **Acts 2:36:** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified; Herod; Pilate; you & me; God!

**c. You killed Jesus:** Do you see your sin? Your envy; your injustice; your cowardice; your ways of rejecting Christ

**d. See the hope of the Gospel for those who call down judgment on themselves & their children:** The same people who called down judgment upon themselves AND THEIR CHILDREN in Matthew 27:25 needed to hear the hope found in Acts 2:39 that is for all whom the Lord calls & grants repentance & faith:

- **Matt. 27:25:** His blood be on us & on our children!

- **Acts 2:39:** the promise is for you & for your children & for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

#### **4. Jesus Is Our Substitute**

**Matt. 27:15-17, 20-21:** Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> & they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" . . . <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests & the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas & destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" & they said, "Barabbas."

Barabbas is mentioned in all four Gospels; Barabbas is a guilty man; Barabbas is a notorious prisoner; Barabbas is a murderer, a rebel, & an insurrectionist; Barabbas is a sinner; Barabbas is all of us:

- **Rom. 3:23:** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

- **Prov 17:15:** He who justifies the wicked & he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD

**Hymn:** Man of sorrows what a name; for the Son of God, who came; ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah, what a Savior!  
- Bearing shame & scoffing rude, **in my place condemned he stood**, sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

- Guilty, helpless, lost were we; blameless Lamb of God was he, sacrificed to set us free: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

- He was lifted up to die; "It is finished" was his cry; now in heaven exalted high: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

- When he comes, our glorious King, all his ransomed home to bring, then anew this song we'll sing: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

**Spurgeon:** Christ, as He stood covered with His people's sins, had more sin laid upon Him than that which rested upon Barabbas. In Him was no sin; He was altogether incapable of becoming a sinner – holy, harmless, & undefiled is Christ Jesus, but He takes the whole load of His people's guilt upon Himself by imputation, & as Jehovah looks upon Him, He sees more guilt lying upon the Savior than even upon this atrocious sinner, Barabbas. Barabbas goes free – innocent – in comparison with the tremendous weight which rests upon the Savior. Think, Beloved, then, how low your Lord & Master stooped to be thus numbered with the transgressors. Watts has put it strongly, but, I think, none too strongly – "His honor & His breath were taken both away, joined with the wicked in His death, & made as vile as they."

**Barabbas' name:** It means "son of the father". Jesus is the true Son of the Father, & He took Barabbas' place so that you could become true sons & daughters of the Father forever!

**Substitution: Romans 5:8:** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **1 Peter 3:18:** Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God

- **2 Cor. 5:21:** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **GOSPEL!**

#### **5. Jesus Is Righteous**

**Matt. 27:19:** Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

**a. Pilate declared Jesus to be innocent: David Mathis:** Three times in Luke 23:15–22, Pilate declares Jesus'

innocence. First, in verse 15, he says, "Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him." Second, in verse 20, Luke tell us, "Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus..." Then, in verse 22, Luke says, "A third time [Pilate] said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death.'"

**b. Pilate tried four different ways to get out of condemning Jesus:** 1) Sent Jesus to Herod; 2) Offered to punish Jesus without execution; 3) Tried to substitute Barabbas; 4) Showed Jesus beaten up in hopes the people may pity - **Heb. 4:15:** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **[You need Christ's righteousness!]**

Righteous King Jesus is the Yes & Amen to all God's promises, & He was crucified as a substitute to save sinners!

## **6. Jesus Was Unjustly Condemned, Scourged, & Crucified**

**Matt. 27:26:** Then he released for them Barabbas, & having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**a. Jesus was unjustly condemned:** They chose a terrorist over Jesus. This is grave injustice.

**b. Jesus was scourged: Edwards:** the prisoner was stripped & bound to a post & beaten with a leather whip woven with bits of bone or metal. No maximum number of strokes was prescribed. The scourging lacerated & stripped the flesh, often exposing bones & entrails. One of its purposes was to shorten the duration of crucifixion, but scourging was so brutal that some prisoners died before reaching the cross.

**c. Jesus was crucified:** Jesus was hung up on a tree to die! Nails, a bloody mess, unrecognizable!

Physical suffering & shame. Spiritual suffering: wrath of God; curse of God; crushed by God; forsaken by God.

**d. You will be rejected too: 1 Pet. 4:12-14:** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice & be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory & of God rests upon you.

Righteous King Jesus is the Yes & Amen to all God's promises, & He was crucified as a substitute to save sinners!

Jesus Is The King Of The Jews; & Everyone Else He'll Choose; Silent Before Those Who Accuse; Caused Pilate To Be Amazed & Confuse; Then They'd Abuse, Misuse, & Bruise; So That He Might Be The Everlasting Good News!

Jesus Is Our Perfect Substitute; He Was Killed Like A Murderous Brute; Though He's Innocent Without Dispute; Yet Silent & Mute; Our Sin God Did To Him Impute; So We'll Have & Bear His Righteous Fruit!

Barabbas is guilty  
He's in prison  
He's a rebel  
He's a murderer  
He revolted against the government  
But Jesus took Barabbas' place!

Barabbas is guilty  
He deserves to die  
He's sinned against others  
He's sinned against God  
He deserves hell forever  
Yet Jesus took Barabbas' place!

Barabbas is guilty  
But Jesus died and rose to save the guilty  
Barabbas is in prison  
But Jesus came to set the prisoners free  
Barabbas is a rebel  
But Jesus came to spread out His hands all the day long to a rebellious people  
Barabbas is a murderer  
But Jesus came to be murdered in order to save murderers who repent and believe in Him  
Barabbas revolted against the government  
But Jesus came to establish an everlasting and perfect government where He would be King forever  
Because Jesus took Barabbas' place!

Barabbas is guilty  
I am Barabbas  
You are Barabbas  
We are Barabbas  
We deserve everlasting prison in hell  
We have rebelled against our Creator Who has been nothing but good to us  
We have murdered and murdered in our hearts  
We have revolted against authority in numerous ways  
We are Barabbas  
But Jesus took Barabbas' place!  
Jesus took our place!

Barabbas is guilty  
But by grace through faith in Jesus, the guilty can go free  
Jesus was made guilt, though He knew no guilt  
Jesus was a prisoner, though He did nothing deserving of prison  
Jesus was counted as the rebel of all rebels, though He knew not an ounce of rebellion in His life  
Jesus was counted murder, though He knew no murder  
Jesus was treated as a threat to the government, though He upholds all things, including government, by the Word of His power  
Jesus was found guilty and Barabbas was set free  
Because Jesus took Barabbas' place!

Barabbas is guilty  
But Barabbas was set free  
And by faith in Christ, you get even better than Barabbas  
You're forgiven of all your sins  
You're given the very righteousness of Christ  
You're set free from sin  
You're set free from hell  
You're set free from the bondage of the devil  
You're given eternal life in the presence of God where there's fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore  
You're given Christ as your all in all  
Because Jesus took Barabbas' place!  
Because Jesus took your place!  
Because Jesus died and rose and conquered all!

Jesus took Barabbas' place  
Was made a robber bad and base

Though against Him there's no case  
In Him, there's no sin, not a trace  
Yet all our sin He did embrace  
Was spit and beat upon His face  
And did the wrath of God displace  
He died for sinners in disgrace  
Then rose to all our death erase  
With love and mercy He will chase  
To give us joy filled with grace  
All because He took our place!

Christ Jesus Reigns As Governor And King  
He's Governor Of Governors And King Of Kings  
He's Righteousness In Everything  
Stands Silent While The Lies They Fling  
They Choose Barabbas, To Their Sin Cling  
Cry "Crucify!" They Hate Our King  
But "He's Our Substitute!" We Sing  
All Our Sins Away He'll Fling  
Of Sin And Wrath He Bore The Sting  
He Died And Rose, New Life He'll Bring  
By Faith Alone, We'll To Him Cling  
Find Everything In Him, Our King!