



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Matthew 27:11-26

[11] Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." [12] But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. [13] Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" [14] But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

[15] Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. [16] And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. [17] 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?" [18] For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. [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." [20] Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. [21] The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." [22] Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" [23] And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

[24] So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." [25] And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" [26] Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. (ESV)

Sermon Outline:

1. Jesus Before Pilate
2. Jesus Before Herod
3. Jesus Before Pilate (again)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- Pastor Scott began the sermon by recounting the events of Passion Week (Palm Sunday to Easter). This single week occupies about one third of the gospels. In other words, it is extremely important. How well do you know the events of this week? (What happened on Monday, Thursday, etc.). Why is it important to know and rehearse the events of Passion Week? How can your life group remember the passion of Christ this week?
- Why wouldn't Jesus do well on a presidential ballot? What qualities do we value in a leader? What qualities did Jesus demonstrate during passion week?
- Compare Jesus with Pilate. Pilate was charged with "keeping the peace" in the region, so this volatile situation naturally made its way to his front door. What decisions did he make to keep the peace? Why did he ultimately fail? Read Ephesians 2:13-16. How did Jesus create peace on the cross?
- Compare Jesus with Barabbas. Pastor Scott suggested that the common perception of Barabbas as a greasy criminal isn't quite accurate. He most likely cut a messianic figure. His name suggested that he had a certain pedigree. He was the leader of an insurrection, which was highly valued among many Jews. Describe Jesus' appearance in these final hours. Why didn't he look like a messiah? Read Philippians 2:5-11 and consider why Jesus' humility was essential in these final hours.
- Compare Jesus with Herod. (See Luke 23:6-16). Describe Herod's method of leadership. What ultimately happened to Herod? What happens to any leader who rules with his values? How did Jesus' idea of authority differ from Herod? (See Luke 22:24-30).
- On the surface, it looks like Pilate, Herod, and the Jewish leaders were in control of the events of Good Friday. But the gospel writers consistently demonstrate that Jesus was in control of every detail. Let the group highlight a few examples. Why is it wrong to think that Satan won the battle on Good Friday, but Jesus won the war on Easter Sunday? Why is it important for us to remember that Jesus was in control of his own death?
- The Jewish leaders said, "His blood be on us and our children!" (Mt. 27:25). Describe the two ways this was fulfilled.

