

## Trading Places (Mark 15:1-15)

Café Church - 30-July-17

There are Bibles on the table in front of you

And a sermon outline

And some questions

Let me pray first...

### Context

[Powerpoint 1-Context]

Jesus has been let down by His disciples in the garden of Gethsemane - they couldn't stay awake and pray with Him

Jesus has been betrayed by Judas

Last week we saw that when Jesus was arrested - the leader of the Apostle's, Peter denied knowing Jesus 3 times before the night was out - it was an epic failure on Peter's part!

### Jesus' Trials

When Jesus was arrested He faced 2 trials

[Powerpoint 2-Trials]

An Ecclesiastical (Religious) trial - [preliminary one with Annas] (Mark 14:53-65; John 18:12-14, 19-24)

And a Civil (Political) trial - Mark 15:2-5, Luke 23:6-12 and Mark 15:6-15 - with Pilate and King Herod

We looked at the religious trial a couple of weeks ago

Tonight - we're looking at Jesus' Political trial

Why did Jesus have to have 2 trials?

[Open for Answers]

The religious trial was to show how Jesus broke the Jewish religious law - by blaspheming - and saying He was God - saying He was I AM

But the Jewish religious leaders had no authority to kill Jesus!

Although they had tried to stone Him before and they later stone one of His disciples - Stephen

It suited the Jews to hand Him over to the Roman ruling authorities to have Him killed by them - through crucifixion

## Participants

As we look at the political trial let's see who's involved:

[Powerpoint 3-Participants]

**Pontius Pilate** - 5<sup>th</sup> governor of Judea (23-46AD)

Pilate was a harsh, cruel and greedy man (Luke 13:1 - we find out he had some people from Galilee killed and mixed their blood with sacrifices offered)

Pilate tries to get himself out of the responsibility of executing Jesus by asking the crowd if they want to release one prisoner - which is the custom at the annual Passover festival

To satisfy the crowd and get them off his back - Pilate releases a terrorist

Barabbas rather than an innocent Man - Jesus

**The Chief Priests** - who had handed Jesus over to Pilate - having already found Jesus guilty of blaspheming

They also stir up the crowd to have Barabbas released instead of Jesus

**Barabbas** - An insurrectionist - a murderer - a rebel (v7) - basically a terrorist

He is in prison - waiting to be executed for rebellion and murder

Ironically his name means "Son of the Father or Master" - Bar=Son - Abba=Father

Yet Barabbas - is to trade places with Jesus - the Son of God!

Barabbas is to be released and Jesus is to be crucified

**The Crowd** - the crowd ask Pilate to release a prisoner as is the custom (v8) and they are influenced by the chief priests to ask for Barabbas instead of Jesus

They also cry out for Jesus to be crucified (v13 and v14)

### **The Charges**

What about the charges against Jesus at this political trial

[Powerpoint 4-Charges]

Well - He can't be accused of anything religious - that's a Jewish religious matter

And if Jesus says He's God

What would Pilate care - He is a Roman and they worship many gods -

Even the emperor Caesar is a god!

So the charge has to be political

And it's there in verse 2

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

I love Jesus' answers and it's the only words He says in this passage in verse 2

"You have said so"

You see He is a King - in fact the King of Kings -

But His answer is that Pilate has said it - not Jesus

And notice all the other charges that the chief priests accused him of - and there were many as we learnt a couple of weeks ago in the religious trials:

They accused him of healing on the Sabbath, that He was going to destroy the temple and that He was a blasphemer

Notice Jesus doesn't reply to any of them

We said a couple of weeks ago - we can learn from Jesus here

We can be silent on false allegations and abuse

But speak only when the truth is asked!

Jesus only answers the question about being King

Because He is the King - the King of Heaven and Earth

In John's Gospel (John 18:36-38) - Jesus says His Kingdom is not of this World - it's a spiritual kingdom!

## **The Abuse**

Then there's the abuse

[Powerpoint 5-Abuse]

V15 - says Jesus is flogged - a better translation is scourged (see John 19:1)

This involved being "tied to a post and beaten with a leather whip that was interwoven with pieces of bone and metal, which tore through skin and tissue, often exposing bones and intestines. In many cases, the flogging itself was fatal.

All this abuse for someone who was completely perfect and innocent!

## Lessons

### [Powerpoint 6a]

1. How do we handle being wrongly accused? Have you ever been wrongly accused?

[Illustration of being wrongly accused of copying Maths homework - when it was my friend who copied off me!]

How did Jesus handle the false accusations?

Confirmed the truth - but silent on the false accusations

### [Powerpoint 6b-God in Control]

2. Barabbas - a terrorist was released instead of the innocent Jesus - Son of God.

It's not fair - is it - but it's part of God's Perfect Rescue Plan - God can turn bad and evil intentions into good - The chief priests, elders and teachers of the law - and Judas - all wanted Jesus gone - it was a wicked, evil, despicable plan - but God made that into a good thing - by allowing Jesus to die for the sin of the world.

Ultimately God is in control - and He planned Jesus to die. See Isaiah 53:4-12

### [Powerpoint 6c-Personal-He took our place!]

3. Let's change the story - instead of Barabbas - let's put ourselves in Barabbas place - Paul, Heather, Matt, Chris, Rob - we all sin against God and deserve to be punished for our sin - but Jesus traded places - He took our place - He took our punishment - He took our death - and died for us -

As we said in this morning's service

If someone saved you from drowning in a rip at Soldiers Beach - you'd remember it forever, you'd talk about it forever

Jesus has done more than save us from the punishment of sin - He's given us the hope of eternal life

When we make Jesus' death and suffering personal

That He did it for us

That should cause us to be affected

Are we affected by His unfair trials?

Are we affected by His unfair and cruel suffering?

Are we affected by His unfair death?

Are we affected by the fact that our sin was dumped on Him?

Are we affected by the fact that He took our place?

Let me finish with how Peter spoke about Jesus after his death, resurrection and ascension in Acts 2

<sup>29</sup> "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has

received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

I hope...

Peter's speech goes on quite a bit longer

Let's skip down to the people's reaction

*See verses 37-39*

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.<sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Q & A

Let's pray...