

Release the Murderer

Mark 15:1-15

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02/11/24

I. Jesus' silence speaks volumes. Mark 15:1-5

The Sanhedrin sent Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor over Judea, to expedite Jesus' execution, because they did not have the _____ to put Him to death. **John 18:31**

- Pilate was in _____ with Tiberius Caesar because of some of the things he had done while governing Judea.

The religious leaders went to Pilate, who did not want to _____ the Jewish leadership again, for fear of another uprising.

- Basically, the whole world participated in Jesus' death. Because of Jesus' death, the whole world can receive _____ of sin if they will trust in His finished work on the cross!

II. Pilate wanted to release Jesus. Mark 15:6-10

"On the evening before every Passover during the Roman occupation of Jerusalem, Jewish leaders asked the Roman governor to free a single convict, who likely would have been a _____ prisoner." (JSTOR Daily)

- **Luke 23:15 no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed _____ deserving of death has been done by Him.**

Pilate had a political problem, so he had to make a _____ between doing what was right or what was politically easy.

III. The murderer was pardoned. Mark 15:11-14

We must remember that most Jews did not trust, nor like Pilate, and most of them did not want to anger their own Jewish religious _____.

- *"If one wonders why the crowd was fickle, he may recall that this was _____ yet the same people who followed him in triumphal entry and in the temple."* (A.T. Robertson)

Not only did Pilate think Jesus was innocent, but his wife had a vision and told Pilate not to touch this _____ man. But Pilate does not want a political catastrophe on his hands.

IV. Pilate tried to appease his political foes. Mark 15:15

Scourging was not meant to kill someone; however, it was brutal enough to be fatal. Scourging was meant to not only harm a person, but to _____ them as well.

V. Practical Application.

Because of our sin, we were the murderers who escaped the _____ due us, when we received the free gift of Jesus Christ, who is the innocent Man who was executed on Calvary's Cross.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 15:1-5**. Why did the religious leaders consult with one another before sending Jesus to Pilate? What kind of physical shape was Jesus in as He arrived to see Pilate? We see in other places within the New Testament where the religious leaders carried out executions (**Acts 7:54-60, John 8:2-12**). Why do you think the religious leaders refrained from killing Jesus? **John 18:31, Matthew 27:20-26**
2. Read **Mark 15:7**. Who was Barabbas? What was Barabbas guilty of against Rome? **John 18:40, Matthew 27:16, Luke 23:18-19**
3. Read **Mark 15:6-10**. It was customary for the Roman Governor to release one political prisoner on the Passover holiday. What do you think Pilate was hoping the crowd decided? How did Pilate feel about the accusations against Jesus? **Luke 23:13-17, Matthew 27:19**
4. Read **Mark 15:11-14**. Why did this crowd want Jesus crucified, seeing how one week earlier, the crowd wanted to make Jesus their king? **Psalms 118:26-28, Mark 11:7-11, Isaiah 53:5-6**
5. Pilate agreed to hear the Jewish leadership's charges against Jesus. Why was Pilate afraid to upset the Jews? **John 19:10-11**
6. Discuss the practical application of the sermon. **Matthew 10:32-33**