

Introduction

1. Last Sunday asked one of critical questions of history, *Who Killed Jesus?* ([Show Title](#))¹
 - a. This = best answer I have ever seen to this question. ([Show](#))² *We might not have...*
 - i. *Cried out, "Let Him be crucified!"* Matt 27:22
 - ii. *Been among the guards who beat Him, mocked Him & scourged Him.* Mt. 27:26-31
 - iii. *Drove the nails into Jesus' hands and feet on that day.* John 19:17-24
 - iv. *Walked by Him and blasphemed Him as He hung on the cross.* Matt. 27:39-44
 - b. *But it was OUR sin that hung Christ on the cross that day!* Rom. 3:21-26
2. As see Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate, question not who, but why did people kill Jesus?
 - a. People's actions always spring from motives. What were the underlying motives?
 - b. When look at those involved in killing Jesus in Mark 15, we see motives. But more.
 - c. This is not a history lesson. People still reject Jesus today...for same reasons.
3. Those who killed Jesus illustrate four motives for rejecting Him today. ([Review I & II](#))³
 - a. This will help you understand people you witness to. May help understand yourself.

III. The Crowd – Jesus makes me disappointed, vv. 6-14.

- A. Presence & Reaction of Crowd ([Show Crowd Painting](#))⁴
 1. At Passover common Gov. release prisoner as goodwill gesture. *Passover Amnesty*.
 2. This helps explain the presence of the crowd & their reaction.
 - a. Customary confront Roman authority w/large & noisy crowd as possible.
 - b. This explains why such large mob came to Jesus' trial. Not there for Jesus.
 - c. That Barabbas introduced 1st before the request, v.6, shows there for Barabbas.⁵
 3. This explains problem never understood. Palm Sunday reaction vs. Good Friday.
 - a. Always that people just fickle & easily persuaded. True answer. Diff. crowd.
 - b. Jesus fr. Galilee. This crowd fr. Judea. Very few supporters of Jesus were there.
- B. Choice of Crowd
 1. This helps explain the choice of the crowd for Barabbas. His supporters to begin with.
 - a. Saw release of Jesus as threat to their man. Played right into leaders' hands.
 - b. Very easy to stir up the crowd to do away w/Jesus & shout for Barabbas.
 2. This becomes even more tragic when understand Barabbas' name.
 - a. Barabbas = last name = *Son of a father or master, teacher*.⁶ ([Show](#))⁷
 - b. *Ancient Syriac/Armenian versions of N.T. call him Jesus Barabbas* in Mt. 27:16-17.
 - c. Major Greek N.T. editions have Jesus in brackets before Barabbas in Matt.27:16-17.⁸
 - d. So Jesus Barabbas was chosen over Jesus Bar-Joseph.

¹ Visual. http://newcreationministry.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/addtext_com_MDQwOTAxNDY1ODA.jpg. 1/17/18.

² "Are we innocent of Christ's Blood?" http://images.slideplayer.com/24/6952732/slides/slide_4.jpg. Accessed 1/24/18.

³ "Pastor's Corner," Sermon notes. www.bethelmarquette.org. January 21, 2018.

⁴ Mihaly Munkacsy. *Ecce Homo* 1895-96. <http://www.mihalmunkacsy.org/Christ-Before-Pilate-1881.html>. 1/24/18.

⁵ William Lane (1974). *The Gospel of Mark*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., p. 553f.

⁶ Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship. #912.

⁷ "Who Was Barabbas?" http://images.slideplayer.com/26/8806576/slides/slide_4.jpg. Accessed 1/25/18.

⁸ Strong reasons "(Jesus) Barabbas" may be original. Metzger, B. M., United Bible Societies. (1994). *A textual commentary on the Greek New Testament (4th rev. ed.)*. London; New York: United Bible Societies.

- e. Crowd preferred Jesus, son of A father to Jesus, Son of THE Father. Why?
3. Barabbas was kind of Messiah Israel really wanted.
 - a. Political activist, man of action, Jewish patriot willing take up arms for freedom.
 - b. Jesus seemed passive, no political ambitions, unwilling to revolt, not defend self.
 - c. Crowd rejected Jesus cause He was not leading to immediate future they envisioned.
4. When their Messiah came, He was nothing but a big disappointment.

C. Disappointment with God

1. When become Christ-followers often have rosy expectations for the future, don't we?
 - a. Now that I'm following/serving Christ, we think, things going to go certain way.
 - b. We look around at other Christians who have all going for them, assume we'll too.
 - c. We know trials will come, but nothing major/catastrophic, nothing too bad.
 - d. Then something devastating comes & punches us in mouth. Shouldn't happen.
 - e. Pastor John Calvin lost his only son to infant mortality. He wrote a friend:
 - f. The Lord has certainly inflicted a severe & bitter wound in the death of our infant son. But he himself is a Father, and knows best what is good for his children.⁹ (Very mature response!)
2. Many people cannot respond that way, especially when it's your only child?
3. Illusion we created about our life w/Jesus is shattered. Become disillusioned.
4. Many, many people given up on Jesus, because it wasn't supposed to go this way.
5. I wasn't supposed to have THIS problem once I gave my life to Jesus.
6. Peter Marshall, former chaplain US Senate, wrote powerful statement must think over.
 - a. Once and for all, we must put out of our minds that the purpose of life here is to enjoy ourselves, to have a good time, to be happy, to make money and to live in ease and comfort. That is not what life is all about. You were put here for a purpose, and that purpose is not related to superficial pleasures. No one owes you a living – not your parents, not your government, not life itself. You do not have a right to happiness. You have a right to nothing. I believe that God wants us to be happy – but it is not a matter of our *right*, but of His *love and mercy*.¹⁰
 - b. When we say it's all of grace & mercy, never be disillusioned when rights not met.

IV. The Soldiers – Jesus makes me laugh, vv. 16-20.

A. Details (Show Soldier Painting)¹¹

1. *Palace* = Herod the Great's enormous palace used by Roman governors.
2. *Battalion* = a tenth of a Roman legion, usually about 600 men.¹²
 - a. Be like us being jeered by a crowd. No love lost between soldiers & Jews.
 - b. Jews despised them, and soldiers held them in contempt.
 - c. When possible, they loved to show disdain for their Jewish enemies.
 - d. So they dressed up Jesus, after the whipping, like a mock Greek prince.
 - (1) *Purple cloak* = faded military cloak or shabby purple rug imitating royal robes.

⁹ John Calvin, 'To Viret. Geneva, 19th August 1542' in *Letters, Part I: 1528-1545* (ed. Jules Bonnet; vol. 4 of *Selected Works of John Calvin: Tracts and Letters*; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983), 344. Cited by Jason Goroncy, 1/25/18. https://jasongoroncy.com/2009/03/04/john-calvin-on-children/#_ftn6.

¹⁰ Peter Marshall (1963). *John Doe, Disciple*. McGraw-Hill. Quote found in personal files, Happiness, not our right.

¹¹ Carl Bloch. *Christ Mocked by a Soldier* (1880). <http://www.carlbloch.com/php/detail.php?artwork=701>. 1/25/18.

¹² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). Mark 15:16, note 3. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- (2) **Crown thorns** = from thorny palm-spines mimicking gilded wreath.
- (3) **Hail, King of the Jews!** = total derision of a buffoonish figure.
- (4) **Striking head w/reed** = a wooden staff that caricatured a royal scepter.
- e. **So Jesus became a figure of fun – a Jewish peasant made silly by ridiculous garb.**

B. Application

1. If ever seen Richard Dawkins, *God Delusion*, ridicule Bible to uproarious laughter,...
2. You know there are many in this group, and it seems to be growing. It's all a joke.
3. Two ways to mock Jesus: Make fun of Him personally or ridicule His Word.
4. Over the years I've collected statements by well-known people mocking Jesus/Bible.
 - a. *2000yrs ago most people that Jesus was just some goofball got nailed to a cross.*¹³
 - b. *Don't be oppressed by the fascism of Christianity.*¹⁴
 - c. *Christianity is a religion for losers, and the 10 Commandments are obsolete.*¹⁵
 - d. *Almost every religion talks about a savior coming...Nobody else is going save you but yourself.*¹⁶
 - e. *My belief is in working hard & treating people well. All that other stuff is nonsense.*¹⁷
 - f. *Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people.*¹⁸
 - g. *Religion was invented when the 1st con man met the 1st fool.*¹⁹
5. But Jesus is not joke. In fact, He is the most serious person who ever lived.
6. Listen to how serious Jesus is in 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. That sounds very serious.
7. Do you know what the main lesson is in Jesus being traded for Barabbas?
 - a. *Jesus was willingly traded for Barabbas to be our substitute. Look at comparison.*²⁰
 - b. *Barabbas = father's son; Jesus = Savior*
 - c. *Fallen son of Adam; Faithful Son of God*
 - d. *Malefactor; Went about doing good, Acts 10:38*
 - e. *Deserved to be punished; Innocent*
 - f. *Allowed to go free; Nailed to the cross prepared for Barabbas.*
8. Jesus was not a goofball who got Himself nailed to a cross.
9. He is the Son of God who willingly died for you and me.

¹³ Geoff Fieger quoted in George Will, *Fieger the vulgarian in his own words*. Syndicated newspaper column.

¹⁴ Rock star Marilyn Manson whose album *Antichrist – Superstar* sold one million copies. Personal file, Persecution.

¹⁵ Ted Turner Honored by Humanist Association. *AFA Journal*. Personal file, Persecution.

¹⁶ <http://www.preachingtoday.com/search/?query=%22Ted+Turner%27s+Savior%22&searcharea=illustrations&type=>
Accessed 1/26/18. Ted Turner quoted in Jill Lieber, "He Wants to Save the World," *USA Today* (2-17-00), pp.1-2C.

¹⁷ Chris Rock, comedian & actor, quoted in James Hannabam, *Vibe*, Nov. 1999, p. 121, Oct., 2000.

¹⁸ Jesse Ventura, wrestler turned MN governor, Nov. 1999. <http://izquotes.com/quote/275083>. Accessed 1/26/18.

¹⁹ Mark Twain. <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/477481>. Accessed 1/26/18.

²⁰ The Sinner's Substitute. <https://image.slidesharecdn.com/christology-12-atonement-23986/95/christology-12-atonement-34-728.jpg?cb=1250142703>. Accessed 1/25/18.