Matthew 27:15-26

Who was Barabbas?

The start of this story has Jesus before Pilate and Pilate asks the Jewish crowd a question, who should I release Barabbas or Jesus. The crowd ultimately chooses Jesus so He could be crucified for our sins

But Who was Barabbas? Barabbas literally means son of the father or teacher (this means his father was probably a Jewish leader (Priest or Pharisee)

He was notorious – Matt 27:16 – notorious means well known for evil things – Hitler was notorious, Ted Bundy was notorious, Jim Jones was notorious

He was a robber – John 18:40 – Butch Cassidy, Bonnie and Clyde, John Dillinger (although these men are thought of in lore now, when they were alive they were terrible)

He was a murderer in a rebellion – Zodiac killer, Ed Gene, Jack the Ripper

For our minds to be set right we must look at who Barabbas really was, The Jews had a choice between Jesus (a perfect, loving savior, or Hitler). The Jewish crowed chose Hitler.

The song by Sidewalk Prophets – You loved me anyway states “I am the man who yelled out from the crowed for your blood to be spilled on this earth shaken ground”

It is easy to look at this from a distance in disgust and say what kind of person would make a choice between Jesus and Barabbas and not choose Jesus? But the answer is easy WE DID!

Before we came to Christ we were sinners – James 4:4 “4 Adulterers and[a] adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

When we sin as Christians we are just as bad, we are not just someone in the crowd at that point we are the Pharisees – Romans 6:12-13 “2 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness”

So who is Barabbas the murder, the liar, the notorious? He is us. We are Barabbas?

The day we sinned we made God make a choice between Jesus and us. The greatest part of the story is God choose us! Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Let us look at a clip from the Passion of the Christ

Comment on video

Prayer!