

**Barabbas**  
**Matthew 27:15-26**  
**December 19, 2021**

**God is Sovereign.**

"I would have pulled Joseph out. Out of that pit. Out of that prison. Out of that pain. I would have cheated nations out of the one God would use to deliver them from famine. I would have pulled David out. Out of Saul's spear-throwing presence. Out of the caves he hid away in. Out of the pain of rejection. I would have cheated Israel out of a God-hearted king. I would have pulled Esther out. Out of being snatched from her only family. Out of being placed in a position she never asked for. Out of the path of a vicious, power-hungry foe. I would have cheated a people out of the woman God would use to save their very lives. I would have pulled Jesus off. Off of the cross. Off of the road that led to suffering and pain. Off of the path that would mean nakedness and beatings, nails and thorns. I would have cheated the entire world out of a Savior. Out of salvation. Out of an eternity filled with no more suffering and no more pain. And oh friend. I want to pull you out. I want to change your path. I want to stop your pain. But right now I know I would be wrong. I would be out of line. I would be cheating you and cheating the world out of so much good. Because God knows. He knows the good this pain will produce. He knows the beauty this hardship will grow. He's watching over you and keeping you even in the midst of this. He's promising you that you can trust Him. Even when it all feels like more than you can bear. So instead of trying to pull you out, I'm lifting you up. I'm kneeling before the Father and I'm asking Him to give you strength. To give you hope. I'm asking Him to protect you and to move you when the time is right. I'm asking Him to help you stay prayerful and discerning. I'm asking Him how I can best love you, and be a help to you. I'm believing He's going to use your life in powerful and beautiful ways. Ways that will leave your heart grateful and humbly thankful for this road you've been on."

**~ Kimberly Henderson Proverbs 31 Ministries**

This, like last week, fit right into God's plan.

(In reference to washing the disciples' and Peter's feet). *Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."* **John 13:7**

**I Was/am Barabbas (we all are).**

**Sinfulness**

*And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas"—<sup>19</sup> who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.* **Luke 23:18-19**

*Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.* **John 18:40**

*Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. <sup>7</sup> And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion.* **Mark 15:6-7**

Pastor, I haven't done those things; neither do I do those things!

*"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. <sup>23</sup> Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup> Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. **Matthew 5:21-30***

*We all like sheep have gone astray. **Isaiah 53:6***

### **The Great Exchange**

Barabbas could go on and live his life but He would be in bondage if He didn't trust Jesus.

*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. **John 10:9-10***

We still deal with our flesh.

**Assume Everyone I See/know is Barabbas.**

"Building relationships that Lead to Gospel Transformation."

As we end 2021 and head into 2022, who will you INTENTIONALLY seek to tell about Jesus?

### **Prayer Focus:**

- **I will trust God's sovereignty.**
- **I will thank God that He saved me, when I deserved death.**
- **I will seek to INTENTIONALLY engage others with the Gospel.**