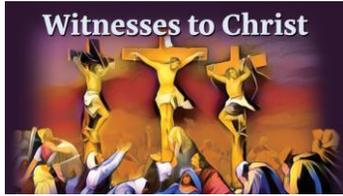


Bible Study: St. John's – West Bend

March 23/24, 2022 - Pastor Jeff Hesse



"...So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" (John 18:39-40)

Discipleship Stories/Opening Prayer

Opening Questions: What do you know about Barabbas? What might make him particularly interesting as one of the *"Witnesses to Christ"*?

Read all 4 of the Gospel accounts about this powerful event that includes a guy named "Barabbas". As you read, note the nuances that give you a more complete picture of what went on?

Read: Matthew 27:15-23

Read: Mark 15:6-15

Read: Luke 23:18-25

Read: John 18:33-40

1. Who is Barabbas? What's the irony of his name's meaning?
2. What has Barabbas done to be arrested?
3. What did Barabbas witness on that "Good Friday" morning?
 - Who is stirring up the crowds (be specific)? Why?
 - What is the custom at Passover... do you see the irony?
 - What is the crowd's reaction in "making this decision"?
 - What is Pilate's reaction? What about his wife's counsel?
 - How is the crowd's will and God's will the same, but motivated by two completely different agendas? What are the agendas?
4. How could Barabbas represent all of humanity? Represent you?
5. How does this event depict what humanity will face before God as Judge? Where is God's promise of grace in this reality? How is the Sacrament of Baptism represented in this event?
6. Right after Barabbas is freed, what happens to Jesus?
7. What are the possible reactions that Barabbas had after his release?

8. Was Barabbas truly freed? Why or why not? Do we know? (Note: Barabbas is not mentioned in the Scriptures before this "event", or after. We don't know what happened to him after his release).
9. How has Jesus set you free... just like Barabbas?
10. What are your reactions after Jesus exchanges Himself for you and sets you free?

Read: Zechariah 9:11-12

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:15-18

What is the common theme in these verses? How do they also apply to your life of faith and gratitude to Jesus?



From the movie *"The Passion of the Christ"*

My Name is "Barabbas"

In Aramaic this means...

Bar (son of)

+

Abba (father) =

"son of the father"

Closing Prayer