

A Study of Mark – Lesson 44

Mark 15:1-15 The Roman Governor

15 ¹ Very early in the morning, / the chief priests, / with the elders, / the teachers of the law / and the whole Sanhedrin, / made their plans. / So they bound Jesus, / led him away / and handed him over to Pilate.

² “Are you the king of the Jews?” / asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” / Jesus replied. Caiaphas Caiaphas

Caiaphas³ The chief priests accused him of many things. / ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, / “Aren’t you going to answer? / See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, / and Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival / to release a prisoner / whom the people requested. / ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison / with the insurrectionists / who had committed murder in the uprising. / ⁸ The crowd came up / and asked Pilate to do for them / what he usually did.

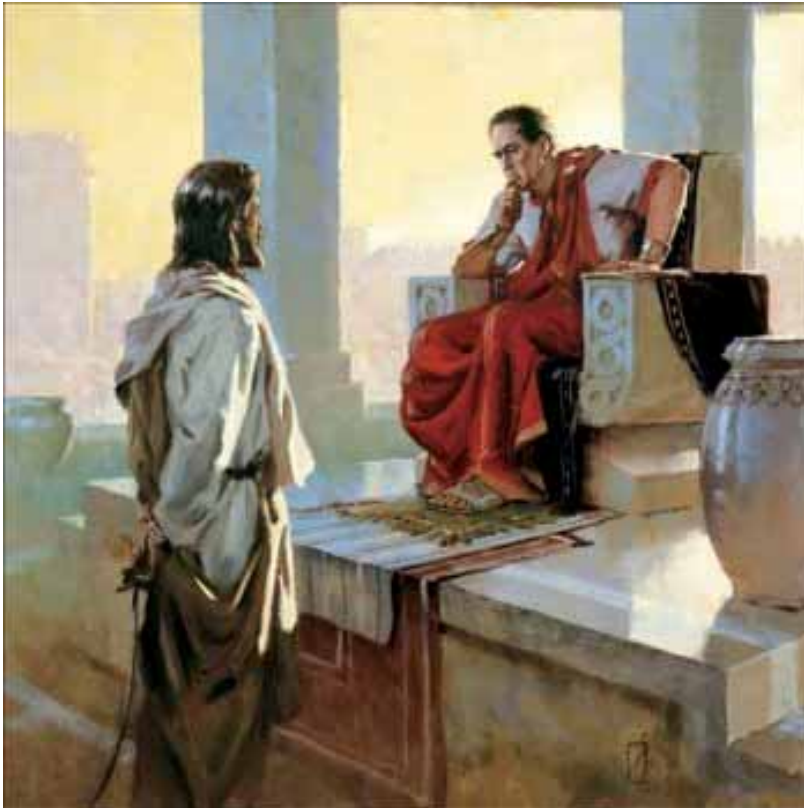
⁹ “Do you want me to release to you / the king of the Jews?” / asked Pilate, / ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest / that the chief

Copyright © 2011-2013 by Glenda Reece. Permission is granted to provide printed copies for use in your ESL/Bible classes, but only if the copies are provided at no cost to the students and contain this entire document including all copyright statements. Copying in any form is prohibited for all commercial purposes or any purpose other than the one specifically allowed above.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc®. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

priests had handed Jesus over to him. / ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd / to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹² “What shall I do, / then, / with the one you call the king of the Jews?” / Pilate asked them.



¹³ “Crucify him!” / they shouted.

¹⁴ “Why? / What crime has he committed?” / asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, / “Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, / Pilate released Barabbas to them. / He had Jesus flogged, / and handed him over to be crucified.

Vocabulary

1. **Insurrectionist:** One who takes part in the attempted rebellion against a government.
2. **Uprising:** Rebellion, revolt, mutiny.
3. **To stir up:** To cause trouble; to agitate. To get people really upset.
4. **To flog:** To beat someone very hard. To scourge, to lash, to whip. (p.7)
- 5.

Questions

1. The trial is a religious one. Name the main groups listed.
2. What decision was reached? What could '*they made their plans*' mean?
3. Why was Jesus handed over to the Roman governor, Pilate?
4. In front of Pilate, Jesus did not answer the accusations the Jews made against him. Why not?
5. The Feast of the Passover has a long history. Why do you think it was the custom to release a prisoner?
6. Barabbas was an insurrectionist. Jesus healed and taught people. Which one should be released?

Notes

1. The Sanhedrin was the supreme Jewish judicial, ecclesiastical, and administrative council in ancient Jerusalem before AD 70, having 71 members from the nobility and presided over by the high priest
2. Pilate: Governor of Judea (26-36 AD). Each of the 40 provinces of the Roman Empire was ruled by a Governor. Pilate had Jesus flogged, mocked and humiliated. Abuse of prisoners happened then as now.
3. Caiaphas: High Priest who urged the crucifixion of Jesus. The office of high priest is an interesting one at this time in history. The father-in-law of Caiaphas was the previous high priest, Annas. He held the title by authority of the Roman Government from A.D. 6-15, and he continued to be powerful, and perhaps the authority behind Caiaphas, for many years after he officially left office. The chief way the high priest stayed in office was to be subservient to the Roman Emperor. Annas was apparently very politically astute, as was Caiaphas. Caiaphas served from A.D. 18 to A.D. 36 when he was removed.
4. Jews do not have right to execute criminals—only Romans can do that.
5. Barabbas is known as a “freedom fighter, a robber, and an insurrectionist.” We have little information about him other than this Biblical reference.