

# MARK 15:1-20

## OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. Who brings Jesus before Pilate and what is the accusation?
2. What is Pilate's response to Jesus? What does Pilate do?
3. In what ways does Jesus respond?
4. Who is Barabbas? What has he done?
5. Compare the Barabbas incident in the three other Gospels (Matthew 27:15-26; Luke 23:18-25; John 18:39-19:16) and make any observations about your discoveries.
6. What mental, physical, and emotional brutality do the soldiers inflict on Jesus?

## INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Why doesn't Jesus defend himself?
2. Why do the crowds turn against Jesus after singing hosannas to him earlier (11:1-10)?
3. What insights into the gospel do you see in the release of Barabbas in exchange for Jesus?
4. What were the chief priests envious of (v.10)?
5. What was Pilate's motivation? dilemma?
6. What is the motivation for the behavior of the soldiers? How and Why do they mock him?
7. Look up Isaiah 50:5-10. What insights does this give you into the mindset, attitude and actions of Jesus?

## APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. In your relationships, do you sometimes make choices which appease others (as Pilate did for the crowd in releasing Jesus), instead of acting upon your conviction? Explain.
2. Compare yourself to Barrabas. How are you like him and how are you not like him?
3. Are there things that you do or say that reiterate the sentiment of the crowd to "Crucify Him"? Look up Hebrews 6:4-8; 10:26ff; 2 Peter 2:20ff.
4. Why does Jesus go through this when he really could have avoided it? How does this make you feel?
5. Have your actions ever mocked the position of Jesus? He was mocked because he acknowledged he was king. Is he king in your life? Could you prove it in a court of law accusing you of treason to the state by your allegiance to Christ?

## ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.