

# I Am Barabbas

## Introduction:

1. In the story of the crucifixion, the character of Barabbas is often overlooked.
2. However, there are many similarities between Barabbas and me (and you).

## I. I Was Rebellious

- A. Matthew records that Barabbas was a “notable” prisoner – literally, “notorious, infamous” (Matthew 27:16).
- B. Mark records that Barabbas was guilty of insurrection – literally, “rioting, sedition, uprising” (Mark 15:7).
  1. No doubt this was a rebellion against Rome (cf. Acts 5:36-37).
  2. Interestingly, this is what the Jews had wanted Jesus to do (John 6:15).
- C. Luke records that this rebellion took place in the city, no doubt Jerusalem itself (Luke 23:18-19).
- D. However, I was no different than Barabbas...
  1. I disobeyed God (Deuteronomy 9:23-24).
  2. I did not completely obey God (1 Samuel 15:22-24).
  3. I refused to obey God (Romans 2:4-5).

## II. I Was Guilty

- A. John records that Barabbas was a “robber” (John 18:40).
- B. Mark and Luke record that Barabbas was a murderer (Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19).
- C. Barabbas had been found guilty of his crimes.
- D. But, I was no different than Barabbas...
  1. I had felt envy and greed (1 Cor. 3:3; Titus 3:3; James 3:14-16).
  2. I had felt bitter anger (Matt. 5:21-22; Eph. 4:26).
  3. I was just as guilty of sin (Romans 3:23).

## III. I Was Imprisoned

- A. Mark records that Barabbas was “bound” – literally, “fastened with chains” (Mark 15:7).
- B. Luke records that Barabbas was “cast into prison” – literally, “thrown without caring where he fell” (Luke 23:19).
- C. Matthew records that Barabbas was a “prisoner” – literally, “one who is in bonds, a captive” (Matthew 27:16).
- D. Yet, I was no different than Barabbas...
  1. I was bound by my sins (Rom. 6:16; 2 Pet. 2:19-20).
  2. I was bound to a cruel master (1 Pet. 5:8; John 8:44; Rev. 12:9).
  3. I was bound to Satan (Eph. 2:1-3; 1 John 3:8).

IV. I Was Sentenced

- A. Barabbas had been found guilty of his crimes.
- B. He was imprisoned awaiting the carrying out of his sentence.
- C. All of his crimes merited capital punishment.
- D. But, I was no different than Barabbas...
  - 1. I was guilty.
  - 2. I was imprisoned.
  - 3. I deserved death for my sins (Romans 6:23).

V. I Was Released

- A. Barabbas deserved death.
- B. Barabbas received mercy; he was released – literally, “pardoned, acquitted, let go, set free, given liberty, no longer detained” (Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:18, 25; John 18:39-40).
- C. Barabbas was released because Jesus took his place (Matthew 27:17, 20-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:16-25).
- D. Thankfully, I am no different than Barabbas...
  - 1. I deserved death.
  - 2. But, I have received mercy! I have been redeemed!
  - 3. Jesus took my place (Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:9-10; Gal. 6:14; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 5:9).

Conclusion:

- 1. What a Savior, who would suffer in the place of someone so wicked as Barabbas!
- 2. What a Savior, who would suffer in the place of a sinner like me.
- 3. In one way or another, I am Barabbas – and so are you.
- 4. Are you rebellious? Are you guilty? Are you imprisoned and sentenced?
- 5. Like Barabbas, you can be released!
- 6. Will you obey the One who died for you?