

Playing Politics with Jesus Mark 15:1-15

We live in a deeply _____ world. Jesus gets that. He lived here, too.

The BIG Idea ... Jesus experiences this world's brokenness when being _____
for our salvation.

- Verse 1: Jesus is delivered over to Pilate.
- Verse 10: Jesus is delivered up by the chief priests.
- Verse 15: Jesus is delivered by Pilate to be crucified.
Why? It's _____.

The Chief Priests: A Political Power Play

- The Claim: "Jesus is guilty of _____."
- The Truth: They are _____ of Jesus (verse 10).
- The Trial: An after-sunrise judgment to make everything look _____ (see Luke 22:66-71).

Pilate: Political Convenience

- The Jews _____ him, and Rome is _____ with him.
- In John 19, these religious leaders instruct the Jewish crowd to say, "If you don't kill Jesus, you can't call yourself a _____ of Caesar—and we will tell Caesar."
- The religious leaders are playing on Pilate's precarious political position because they need him to _____ on _____ Jesus. Deuteronomy 21:23, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

Application: People can play politics with Jesus (and with you as a follower of Jesus), but in the end _____.

- Rome doesn't care about religion; Rome cares about _____.
- So when the religious leaders bring Jesus to Pilate, they change the charge against Jesus: "He claims to be _____ of the _____, so he's a threat to Rome."
- They also charge Jesus with forbidding the Jews to _____ to Rome and causing a _____ among the Jews—which are lies.

Applications: When people play politics with you by spreading lies about you, there are times that _____ is the best response.

_____ with Jesus is not _____ in Jesus.

Barabbas: A Political Pawn

- He is an _____ who murdered a Roman official.
- Pilate expects the crowd to ask for Jesus to be released—since He is _____.
- The religious leaders are feeding the crowd their lines: "Release Barabbas. _____ Jesus!"

Jesus: Not A Political Victim; A Willing Sacrifice (John 10:17-18)

- We are _____—our _____ condemned Jesus to death.
- We are _____—we get _____ because Jesus _____ our death.

Three Takeaways ... Guard against playing politics with Jesus:

1. Seek first God's _____ rather than your _____ kingdom (Matthew 6:33).
2. _____ people rather than _____ people (1 John 3:16).
3. Acknowledge that _____ is _____ we _____ (Psalm 23:1).