

I. Pilate and the Crowd

- A. Jesus has been tried by the Sanhedrin, by Pilate, and by Herod
- B. Pilate has the final say in his fate
- C. Pilate addresses the crowd

II. Jesus and Barabbas

- A. Customary for the governor to release a prisoner on Passover
- B. "Release for us Barabbas" (Matthew 25:16,17,20; Mark 15:11)
- C. they ask for the release of a man *who is actually guilty of what Jesus was accused of*

III. The Great Exchange

- A. An unwitting, astonishing portrait of grace
- B. Substitutionary atonement
 - i. three perspectives on the atonement (the saving work of Jesus Christ)
 - a) ransom
 - b) moral influence
 - c) substitutionary
 - ii. they are all true: but substitutionary atonement is the central one!
- C. Where is this in Scripture?
- D. This is the big deal of the New Testament
 - i. Paul: 2 Corinthians 5:19,21; Galatians 3:13; Colossians 2:13-14; Romans 5:17
 - ii. Hebrews 9:28
 - iii. Peter: 1 Peter 1:18-19; 3:18
 - iv. John: John 1:29 1 John 1:5,7,8; 5:13

IV. Barabbas and us

- A. Barabbas' name meant "son of the teacher"
- B. But Jesus has taken our place
- C. The cross of Jesus Christ utterly defeats us
- D. Jesus died to save every kind of sinner
- E. Jesus died to reconcile sinners to one another, as well as to God (Ephesians 2:16)
- F. God can use even the most profound human evil for our good and his own praise (1 Corinthians 1:21ff.)