



The Costly Exchange

Sermon Discussion Questions - April 10, 2022

Text

Matthew 27:11-44

Discussion Questions

1. How is Barabbas described in the text?
 - a. What do you think Pilate hoped for when he offered the choice to free Jesus or Barabbas?
 - b. What from the text leads you to this conclusion?
2. Pilate had the authority to declare Jesus innocent but instead “washed his hands” of him.
 - a. If Pilate thought Jesus was innocent, why didn’t he free him? What do you think he wanted? Or what was he afraid of?
 - b. When have you denied, exchanged, or disobeyed Jesus for similar reasons?
3. The people demanded Jesus be put to death, saying, “His blood be on us and on our children” (verse 25). Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. If that were true, they would need to obey Him. But they put Him to death. Imagine yourself in the people’s place. What would you have done or not done differently? Why?
4. The people exchanged Jesus for Barabbas. Why do you think that is? have you denied, exchanged, or disobeyed Jesus for similar reasons?
5. Pilate and the people exchanged Jesus for something they wanted more than loving and following Him, and we do the same every day. Thankfully, another exchange occurs in this passage. Jesus willingly goes to the cross to accept the wrath of God, exchanging our sin for His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). When could you spend time this week reflecting on this exchange, and what will that time look like? Make a plan to worship through prayer and meditation on the cross of Christ leading up to Easter, and share that plan with your community group or accountability partner.





Prayer

Lord, when we read how Pilate and the people exchanged You for their own desires, we grieve, because we do the same. Thank You that, despite our sin, You willingly endured the cross, taking the wrath of God for our sin in our place. You are the victor over sin and death, and we praise You today! Amen.

