

# Encounters with the Christ

## Week 8: The King Who Hangs for Rebels – Mark 15:1-15

**Weekly Summary:** When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people rejoiced because they thought he had come to liberate them from Roman rule. A few days later, they were delighted to see Jesus bound in Roman chains. *This* Jesus would never be their king! Yet through it all, Jesus was becoming a far *better* king than the one they wanted. Jesus is the King who trades places with criminals and hangs in the place of those who rebelled against him!



- ❖ **Mark 15:1-7** – Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. <sup>3</sup>The chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. <sup>6</sup>Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. <sup>7</sup>A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising.

- ❖ **Ezekiel 18:20a** – The one who sins is the one who will die.

➤ In Barabbas see \_\_\_\_\_.



➤ **Big Problem:** “I’m a guilty \_\_\_\_\_ who deserves to die!”

- ❖ **Mark 15:8-15** – The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. <sup>9</sup>“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, <sup>10</sup>knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup>“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. <sup>13</sup>“Crucify him!” they shouted. <sup>14</sup>“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” <sup>15</sup>Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

➤ In Barabbas see \_\_\_\_\_.

➤ **Big Solution:** "I am innocent of \_\_\_\_\_, because Jesus has taken my place."

❖ **Romans 3:25-26** – God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—<sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

➤ **The Great Exchange:** The \_\_\_\_\_ One for the \_\_\_\_\_ ones.

➤ Jesus may not always be the king you \_\_\_\_\_, but he is always the King you \_\_\_\_\_.



## **Homework for the Upcoming Week**

1. Take some time to read through the Holy Week account of Jesus' life from all four Gospels. (You'll find this in Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 19-24, and John 12-21.) What emphases do you find in this last week of Christ's pre-Easter life? What important takeaways can you gather from them?
2. Look humbly and honestly at your life. If you were on trial before God for your sins against him, what labels would you have to give yourself? Why does it make us so uncomfortable to make these admissions about ourselves?
3. What kind of "king" do you think Jesus should be for you? Why do we get angry when Jesus doesn't meet our expectations for him as king?
4. What ways do you—and other people—seek to try and free themselves? Why is that ultimately a task doomed to failure? What's the ONLY solution that God gives? Why is that the ONLY solution we need?
5. Once we understand who Jesus is and what kind of King he came to be, how does this change our hearts? How does it change our lives daily? If Christ is indeed not only Savior, but also King, what impact does this have on our attitudes toward sin and the choices that we make?

## **Next Steps**

1. **Share today's message** with a friend or family member who you think might benefit from hearing it.
2. **Read Matthew 28** to prepare for next week's Easter message from our series *Encounters with the Christ*.
3. **Invite three friends** to enjoy our Easter breakfast and our final "encounter" with Jesus next Sunday!