

**God With Us**  
 “Let Him Be Crucified”  
 Matthew 27:15-26

“Then Pilate said to them, *Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all said, Let Him be crucified!*”  
 (Matthew 27:22)

### I. The Calls of the Crowd

- a. The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of three political crimes:
  1. They claimed He misled the nation, forbid the paying of taxes and claimed to be king. (Luke 23:2)
- b. Only Matthew tells us about Pilate’s wife, Claudia. She comes on the scene only on this one memorable point in history.
  1. Claudia had a dream about Jesus and could not rest. She sent a message to Pilate during the trial, telling him of her dream. God uses dreams then and today.
- c. It was Pilate’s practice to release a prisoner as way to curry favor with the Jews, who hated him.
- d. *Barabbas*, was a freedom fighter who had committed murder in an attempted coup. He and two accomplices were captured by the Roman security forces.
- e. Capital punishment (crucifixion) was the penalty rendered to anyone who committed murder.
- f. There is a lot of irony in this short narrative:
  1. *Barabbas* means “son of the father”, so there were two “sons of the father” in the center of the stage that day.
  2. One pillaged and killed. The other loved and suffered.
  3. People were called to choose between those two principles, evil and good.
- g. On that Good Friday, Jesus ended up on the cross intended for *Barabbas* and the guilty man walked away free.
- h. This is an amazing picture of what the cross of Christ really means! Jesus took *Barabbas*’ place. He took ours, too.
- i. They all answered, *Crucify Him!* And this was the same crowd which, less than a week ago, celebrated Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem with cries of “Hosanna (*save us; save please!*)!”
- j. The call for crucifixion is remarkable on Jewish lips. This hated form of execution was Roman.

### II. Thoughts to be Considered/Lessons to be Learned

- a. If we listen to Matthew, it was not the Jews who crucified Jesus, we are all involved!
- b. It was the refusal of the human heart to respond to the King proclaiming the kingdom that led to Jesus’ death. All humanity is implicated.
- c. Pilate claimed, “I am innocent of this man’s blood, see to it yourselves.” He was trying to pass the buck, which has been going on since Adam blamed Eve.
- d. For years the Church blamed the Jews for killing Jesus, but whose sins really put Him there?
- e. The Gospel records remind us that if we are truly not anchored to the teachings of Christ, we can worship Him one day and some days later act as if we do not know Him.
- f. The Gospel record reminds us to abide in Christ lest we be led astray.
- g. It is true we are never supposed to be one of the people in the crowd, but we are not supposed to run from the crowd like Jesus’s disciples.
- h. We are to be the light in the crowd. Our cry should always be *save us* and *save them*.
- i. We have been called from the crowd to sacrifice in Jesus’ name. To love and suffer.