

24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

MARK 15:1-15

THE POWER OF A DECISION

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they shouted. "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

1. Life often presents us with decisions that **CHALLENGE** our morality.
2. Without a biblical basis for moral judgments we're **INCONSISTENT** in the way we approach tough choices & often opt for that which is ego-centric.

What is the framework that guides our decisions?

3. Jesus accepts the humiliation and abuse because he has a **VISION** of a broken, error-prone humanity healed and brought near to God. The vision and his connection with the Father gave him power in his decisions.

4. Jesus is certainly an example for making right choices, but he is so much more. He is a **RESERVOIR** of right judgment from which we can **DRAW**.

5. In Christ we can find the will and the strength to **CHOOSE WELL**.