

Behold – Week 3 Devotional

And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” And Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.”¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

- Mark 15:7-15

When you read these scriptures it's hard to draw any comparisons between Barabbas and Jesus. But there is one. If you look at the name Barabbas, in the original Aramaic, it means “son of (bar) the father (abbas).” But if you've spent much time in the Bible, you probably already realize that Jesus was the original “Son of the Father (God).” So, as the crowd stood on the floor of the praetorium looking up at Pilate, they had one thing to do, one choice to make on that day. They had to choose the “Son of the Father” rightly.

As the scripture tells us, they failed that day. And all they had to do is look across the crowd and behold Jesus. If they had beheld the “Son of the Father,” there would have been no other choice than to choose rightly. Excuse me for a minute while I wipe this smug look off my face, because aren't we faced with these decisions daily? I am, and unfortunately, I don't always choose rightly either. Earlier, I said all they had to do is “behold Jesus.” If you'll notice, I didn't say look at Jesus or see Jesus. No, just like us, what they needed is to behold Jesus. They needed to take in His fullness, to rest in His presence, to see and to know Him as the “Son of the Father.” So, my prayer for this week is a simple one, during the last week of this Easter season may we behold Jesus, and may we choose rightly.