

PASSOVER PARDON
MARK 15:6-11 / 8-30-17 / Wed.

I. WHO WAS BARABBAS?

- A. What do the Scriptures say about him?
1. He was a revolutionary or “Zealot”—Mark 15:7.
 2. He was also a murderer as a result of his insurrection participation—Mark 15:7.
 3. John adds that he was a robber, which was perhaps another result of the insurrection he was a part of—John 18:40 KJV.
 4. There is no historical reference to a particular rebellion around that time frame but Jews were continually rebelling against Roman rule.
 5. Although we may think of Barabbas as a very undesirable character, Jews thought of him as a “political prisoner” not a hardened criminal.
- B. What does his name tell us about him?
1. It is an Aramaic name
 2. “Bar” means “son of”.
 3. “Abba” means “father”.
 4. “Abbas”, which it probably was, means “Fathers”.
 5. Together his name means “the son of fathers”. Perhaps a reference to all his male ancestors.

II. WHO WAS THE CROWD?

- A. Jesus’ disciples didn’t have any time to call his supporters to ask for his release.
- B. The logical conclusion is that the crowd was full of Barabbas’ supporters ready to petition Pilate for his release.
- C. Barabbas would have been popular with this crowd for two reasons.
1. First, he was doing what they wanted to be doing, namely, rebel against Roman rule.
 2. Second, he was doing exactly what they thought the Messiah should be doing.

3. There is one ironic similarity between Barabbas and Jesus. They both shared the same name. How so?
 - a. Matthew 27:16-17 gives Barabbas his full name—Matt. 27:16-17.
 - b. “Jesus” is the Greek equivalent of “Joshua”. It was a common name. It means “God will save”.

III. **WHO ARE WE?**

- A. In the same way that Jesus died in Barabbas’ place, he also died in our place—1 Peter 2:24.
- B. There have been a few songs written called “I Am Barabbas”.