

Doubtless Living!

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THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

That you may have certainty!

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Community Chest

**GET OUT
OF JAIL FREE**



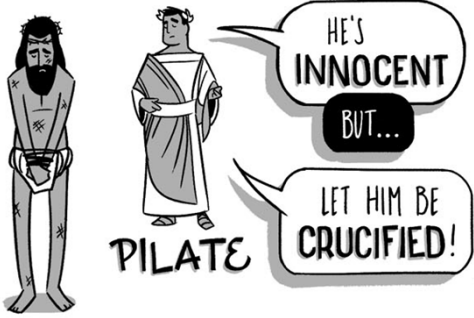
THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED, OR SOLD

**Nothing
better than a
pardon when
you're in jail!**

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GIVE US BARABBAS

*THE INNOCENT ONE CONDEMNED,
THE GUILTY SET FREE!*

Luke 23:13-25

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Jesus or Barabbas

Luke 23:13-25

¹³Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people,
¹⁴and said to them, "You have brought me this man as one who misleads the people. But in fact, after examining him in your presence, I have found no grounds to charge this man with those things you accuse him of.
¹⁵Neither has Herod, because he sent him back to us. Clearly, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶Therefore, I will have him whipped and then release him."
¹⁸Then they all cried out together, "Take this man away! Release Barabbas to us!" ¹⁹(He had been thrown into prison for a rebellion that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

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Jesus or Barabbas

Luke 23:13-25

²⁰Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate addressed them again, ²¹but they kept shouting, "Crucify! Crucify him!"

²²A third time he said to them, "Why? What has this man done wrong? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him whipped and then release him."

²³But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that he be crucified, and their voices won out. ²⁴So Pilate decided to grant their demand ²⁵and released the one they were asking for, who had been thrown into prison for rebellion and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

¹⁴...after examining him in your presence, I have found no grounds to charge this man with those things you accuse him of. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, because he sent him back to us. Clearly, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶Therefore, I will have him whipped and then release him."

PUBLIC VERDICT

➤ After a third public trial, Pilate proclaims his verdict (again) and announces sentencing:

- ❖ Pilate declares Jesus innocent of all charges, and announces plans to have Him whipped before releasing Him.
 - Pilate insists that *nothing worthy of death has been done*, and he repeats the earlier verdict to chastise and release Jesus.
 - The judge has almost taken up the role of defense attorney, while the crowd has become the judge and jury.

¹⁸Then **they all cried out together**, "Take this man away! Release Barabbas to us!"

²¹but **they kept shouting**, "Crucify! Crucify him!"

²³But **they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices...**

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PUBLIC OUTCRY

- **Pilates' verdict agitated the crowd even more, and the voices grew louder.**
 - ❖ The scene transformed from a simple public hearing into a near riot – on a feast day when the city was full of people.
- **The crowd made clear their desire by shouting it three times:**
 - ❖ 23:18 – They all cried out together
 - ❖ 23:21 – They kept shouting
 - ❖ 23:23 – They kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices

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¹⁸Then they all cried out together, "**Take this man away! Release Barabbas to us!**"

²¹but they kept shouting, "**Crucify! Crucify him!**"

²³But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices **that he be crucified...**

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PUBLIC DEMANDS

- **The extremely vocal crowd demanded two things of Pilate:**
 1. Release Barabbas, a true insurrectionist who had been convicted of murder, and
 2. Crucify Jesus!
- **Remember, maintaining the peace and order was Pilate's number one priority.**
- **Barabbas had already incited rebellion and was a certifiable threat to Pilate.**

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²³But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that he be crucified...

POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Why would Pilate even consider releasing Barabbas, who had already disrupted the equilibrium of Jerusalem?**
 - ❖ Because the scene before him in the streets of Jerusalem represented an even greater threat to him than did Barabbas.
 - ❑ *When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was starting instead... (Matthew 27:24)*

²³But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that he be crucified, and their voices won out. ²⁴So Pilate decided to grant their demand...

POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

- **The crowd won out, Pilate succumbs to the pressure and capitulates to their demands:**
 - ❖ He releases Barabbas, likely with some fear and trepidation, and then
 - ❖ He hands over Jesus to be crucified.
- **Feeling guilty, he washes his hands and tried to cast blame on the Jewish crowd.**
 - ❖ *²⁴When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was starting instead, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood." (Matthew 27:24)*

PERPLEXING REVERSAL

➤ What happened to the crowd that supported Jesus so vehemently?

- ❖ *The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people were looking for a way to kill him, but they could not find a way to do it, because **all the people were captivated by what they heard**.* (Luke 19:47)
- ❖ *Then the scribes and the chief priests looked for a way to get their hands on him that very hour, because they knew he had told this parable against them, but **they feared the people**.* (Luke 20:19)
- ❖ *The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put him to death, because **they were afraid of the people**.* (Luke 22:2)
- ❖ *So he accepted the offer and started looking for a good opportunity to betray him to them **when the crowd was not present**.* (Luke 22:6)

Jewish leaders
feared the crowd
because the crowd
revered Jesus.

What
changed?

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POWERLESS DISCIPLES

➤ Judas betrayed Jesus, emboldening the leaders and striking fear into the hearts of the disciples.

- ❖ *"Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish officials **arrested Jesus and tied him up**."* (John 18:12)
- ❖ *The **disciples all deserted him and ran away**.* (Matthew, 26:56, Mark 14:50), and
- ❖ *The formerly fearless Peter turned coward and **denied him** three times.* (Luke 22:54-62)

With Jesus in
custody, and the
disciples in hiding,
the confidence of
the crowd faded.

Jesus stood
alone!

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POWER HUNGRY LEADERS

➤ **The emboldened religious leaders threatened Pilate and intimidated the crowds:**

- ❖ *From that moment Pilate kept trying to release him. But the Jews shouted, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!" (John 19:12)*
- ❖ *The chief priests and the elders, however, persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to execute Jesus. (Matthew 27:20)*
- ❖ *But the chief priests stirred up the crowd so that he would release Barabbas to them instead. (Mark 15:11)*

And Jesus stood silent before His accusers while all of this happened, because that was God's plan.

He could have called 10,000 angels, but He didn't!

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DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- Jesus was convicted, despite being declared innocent three times during the public trials.
- Barabbas, whose name means "son of the father," goes free while the true Son goes to His death.
- The innocent One was condemned so the guilty can be set free, and I'm not just talking about Barabbas.
- Those who have been rescued from the penalty of sin understand that Barabbas's freedom is a portrait of our own pardon.
- The crowd shouted, release Barabbas.
- Jesus said, release them all!

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Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. For rarely will someone die for a just person — though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.