



**We are Barrabas
March 13-14, 2021**

Mark 15:7-15 (NLT)

One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual. "Would you like me to release to you this 'King of the Jews'?" Pilate asked. (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. Pilate asked them, "Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" "Why?" Pilate demanded. "What crime has he committed?" But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him!" So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

- **Barabbas was a bad man, but am I?**

Answer: Yes, I am bad compared to God's goodness.

- **Barabbas was an insurrectionist, but am I?**

Answer: Yes, I am an insurrectionist.

Psalms 5:10 (NET)

Condemn them, O God! May their own schemes be their downfall. Drive them away because of their many acts of insurrection, for they have rebelled against you.

Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

- **Barabbas was a thief, but am I?**

Answer: Yes, I'm a thief.

Proverbs 11:1 (TPT)

Dishonest business practice is something that Yahweh truly hates. But it pleases him when we apply the right standards of measurement.

Malachi 3:8 (NET)

Can a person rob God? You are indeed robbing me, but you say, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and contributions!

- **Barabbas was a murderer, but am I?**

Answer: Yes, I am a murderer.

Matthew 5:21-22 (NET)

"You have heard that it was said to an older generation, 'Do not murder,' and 'whoever murders will be subjected to judgment.' But I say to you that anyone who is angry with a brother will be subjected to judgment. And whoever insults a brother will be brought before the council, and whoever says 'Fool' will be sent to fiery hell."

1 John 3:15 (GNT)

Those who hate others are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life in them.

- **Barabbas received undeserved grace, can I?**

Answer: Yes, I can.

John 12:32 (NIV)

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die."

Galatians 3:13-14 (NLT)

"But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree..."

The Lost Sinner

Ephesians 2:8-9 (TPT)

For it was only through this wonderful grace that we believed in him. Nothing we did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the gracious gift from God that brought us to Christ! So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.

The Saved Sinner

Romans 7:18-21, 24-25a (NET)

For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I want to do the good, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the very evil I do not want! Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer me doing it but sin that lives in me. So, I find the law that when I want to do good, evil is present with me. ... Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

How to be Free of the Barabbas in Me

For the Christian:



Be honest and live in a perpetual state of confession.

1 John 1:8-10 (TPT)

If we boast that we have no sin, we're only fooling ourselves and are strangers to the truth. But if we freely admit our sins when his light uncovers them, he will be faithful to forgive us every time. God is just to forgive us our sins because of Christ, and he will continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we claim that we're not guilty of sin when God uncovers it with his light, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

How to deal with my sin...

- **Own it before God and whoever you sinned with, or against.**
- **Avoid it next time by putting guardrails in place.**
- **Offer it by sharing my story with others who may have similar struggles.**

2 Peter 1:3-6 (NLT)

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desire. In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness...

2 **Become consistently connected to those who love God and live for him.**

Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

How to walk with the wise...

- **Get in church**

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- **Go to small group**

Acts 2:46 (ESV)

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts

3 **Get baptized and start servicing others.**

Acts 10:47 (ESV)

"Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?"

Romans 6:3-6 (NLT)

Have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

For the Unbeliever:

1 **Admit you have sinned like Barabbas.**

Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)

...but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

2 **Acknowledge I can do nothing to save myself.**

Galatians 2:21 (NIV)

I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Romans 11:6 (NIV)

And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

3 **Accept the free gift of salvation.**

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:15-16a, 17 (NLT)

.... For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin... But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse for March, 2021

John 11:25 (NIV)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."



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