

**Recap of 6/16/24 message by Pastor Chris  
(Mark 15:1-15 "The True King Falsely Convicted")**

- **Jesus is the true king.** The phrase "King of the Jews" is recorded 6 times in this chapter. It is the main indictment brought against Jesus when He is before Pilate. Mark uses irony so richly to draw out amazing observations about Jesus' passion. In bringing the charge as the "King of the Jews," the very people who are rejecting Him as their king are in fact affirming His kingship, even if they mean it as mockery. But He isn't just the King of the Jews. He is the True King over all the earth. He is the King of Kings!
- **Jesus is falsely convicted.** It is the sovereign will of God that Jesus is convicted and sent to the cross, but the conviction is still a false conviction. God uses even the injustice brought about by people with no moral compass to bring about His purposes. In fact, there is even more irony here that we can't miss. First, this is an unjust trial and false conviction which is used to send Jesus to the cross where He satisfies the justice of God and appeases His wrath for all who believe in Jesus Christ. Second, the name "Barabbas" means "the son of the father." We learned from our passage in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus calls God the Father "Abba" (Mark 14:36). The irony here is that the Jews call for Barabbas (the son of the father) who is a convicted murderer, thief, and insurrectionist to be released while calling to crucify Jesus (the son of God the Father) who is being falsely convicted for insurrection (this is the Roman charge that leads to capital punishment implied with the title of "King of the Jews" applied to Jesus).
- **Pilate seeks the crowd's approval, and we must be careful not to do the same in our lives.** Pilate seeks to satisfy the crowd, and in doing so he cedes his responsibility, acquiesces to injustice, and refuses to risk anything for another. This should be a warning to us. Those who have no moral waypoint will eventually side with injustice to satisfy a crowd. And the only solid ground is found in following Jesus Christ as revealed in the scriptures. Morality not tethered to God, but tethered to something else is susceptible to the changing winds. As believers we must seek the approval of God above people. We do this not because we are trying to earn our way into Heaven, or earn our salvation, rather we seek to please God because of our love and devotion to Him, and to seek to please anything above God would be idolatry.