

“Substitution!”

Friday, March 29, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

Matthew 27:11-26

BIG IDEA: Jesus took my place.

*“He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”
2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB)*



Two Men.

- **Barabbas - The Son of a Father.**
- **Jesus - The Son of the Father.**



Two Ambitions.

- **Death & Destruction.**
- **Light & Life.**



Two Choices.

- **The Way of the Sword.**
- **The Way of the Cross.**

BIG IDEA: Jesus took my place.

READ: Matthew 27:11-26

THINK: Ponder the situation before Pilate with Barabbas and Jesus, then ask yourself these questions: *When was the last time you were “let off the hook”? Since it was against Roman law to proclaim one’s self as a “Messiah”, how does this play into the confrontation between Pilate and Jesus? What is Pilate’s overriding concern in this trial: Identifying the Messiah? Hearing out Jesus? Exchanging prisoners? Doing justice? Appeasement? What is Pilate’s motive in offering a prisoner exchange? What do you imagine Barabbas was thinking about as he awaited execution in his prison cell? As he heard the crowds chanting his name? As the guards came and released him into freedom? Why does Jesus maintain silence through most of this ordeal? What keeps Jesus on track to go the Cross in Barabbas’s place?*

DO: With whom do you identify most in this story: Pilate, Pilate’s wife, the crowd, the chief priests, or Barabbas? Why? Ultimately, we are all “Barabbas”. How does Jesus’ substitutionary death challenge and direct your ambitions and choices going forward?