
The Choice We All Must Make

March 08, 2026

Joshua 24:15; Matthew 27:15-26; Luke 23:18-25

Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve

- I. **Life is about choices**
 - A. Our decisions create
 - 1. Success or failure
 - 2. Gladness or sadness
 - 3. Victory or defeat
 - B. Dr. Glasser's famous principle
 - 1. We have control over our choices
 - 2. Our response is our responsibility
 - 3. Our choices can free us or shackle us
 - II. **Barabbas: meet a man who made some bad choices**
 - A. A murderer
 - 1. No regard for human life
 - B. A thief
 - 1. No regard for boundaries
 - C. An insurrectionist
 - 1. Taking law into his own hands
 - D. Because he was an enemy of the state
 - 1. Rome would now crucify him
 - 2. Rome would pour out her wrath upon him
 - 3. He was to be crucified with his co-conspirators
 - III. **Barabbas knew what awaited**
 - A. A painful torturous death
 - 1. Like those before him
 - 2. Humiliated, abandoned, tortured, a pain that would welcome death
 - B. He knew death was his next step; he knew there was no escape
 - 1. Deep down he knew his guilt
 - 2. But he also knew his hate
 - 3. Right now all he knew was that he was alone, abandoned, angry, depressed, & defeated
 - C. Maybe he thought of what it was like to be free
 - 1. Was this the right choice?
 - 2. If I could do it differently, would I?
- IV. **He was imprisoned physically, mentally, & spiritually**
 - A. On death row
 - B. Shackled by chains
 - 1. Also by anger & hate
 - 2. Arrogance
 - 3. Anxiety
 - 4. Antipathy
 - V. **Maybe this is your story**
 - A. Shackled by
 - 1. Anger
 - 2. Addiction
 - 3. Apathy
 - 4. Arrogance
 - 5. Abuse
 - B. And you're tired
 - 1. All you want is another chance
 - 2. All you want is freedom
 - 3. All you want is life
 - VI. **We are just like Barabbas**
 - A. He was guilty, we are guilty
 - 1. This is not about being misunderstood
 - 2. This is not about being falsely accused
 - 3. This is not about being mistreated for his views
 - B. He chose to rebel
 - 1. For every decision there is a built-in consequence
 - C. We are Barabbas and Barabbas is us
 - 1. We have rebelled against God

2. We have broken the law of God
3. We stand condemned
4. Barabbas had no hope, no defense, no plea deal
5. On our own, we have no hope, no defense, no plea

VII. On this day, Barabbas stood next to the one who would take his place

- A. Barabbas expected to be tortured
- B. But he stood next to Jesus
 1. Jesus Messiah next to Jesus Barabbas
 2. Son of God next to Son of the Father
 3. One a rebel, the other sinless
 4. One brought death, one brought life
 5. One raised the dead, one raised a sword

VIII. A question to the crowd, "Which one do you want me to release?"

- A. Now the crowd had a choice, a decision to make
 1. Barabbas or Jesus?
- B. The choice was made
 1. Barabbas was released
 2. Jesus was condemned
- C. Barabbas was set free
 1. No judgement
 2. No torture
 3. No humiliation
- D. But Jesus would be crucified
 1. Jesus would be crushed
 2. Jesus would be forsaken of God
 3. Barabbas would have life; Jesus would face death

IX. Barabbas is our mirror

- A. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
- B. Like Barabbas, we stand guilty before God
- C. Like Barabbas, we face the sentence of death
- D. Like Barabbas, Jesus stands next to us to take the wrath meant for us
- E. We are then set free, unshackled
- F. We get to know life now and for all eternity

X. Barabbas had a choice

- A. Stay and be crucified
- B. Or walk into freedom
- C. He also chose to never go back to prison
- D. But maybe he chose to watch the man who took his place
- E. Maybe he chose to watch his 2 friends die
- F. Maybe he realized that should have been me
- G. Maybe he realized Jesus took my place
 1. I was guilty
 2. He was innocent
 3. He was condemned
 4. I was released
 5. He faced wrath
 6. I was set free
- H. All because Jesus took my place
- I. That was his story, that can be your story

XI. The 2 questions that determine our choices & decision

- A. If you were to die today, do you know for certain you would go to Heaven?
- B. If God were to ask you, "Why should I let you into my Heaven?" What would you say?
- C. The only answer
 1. Jesus took my place
 2. Jesus set me free
 3. Jesus gave me eternal life
 4. Jesus saved me
 5. This was the choice He gave me
 6. He chose me & I chose Him

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