**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 37 – Rejected**

**Every Jewish boy and girl (those following Jesus) would have known Isaiah 53:3 – He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Little did they realize; they would see it.**

**It is now 8-9 hrs before his death… He is arrested – the Trials Begin!**

**2AM - T1 - Annas (former high priest) Preliminary trial (John 18:12)**

**3AM - T2 - Caiaphas (Luke 22:66) beaten and thrown in jail.**

**Both considered illegal before sunrise – they wanted him dead**

**5AM - T3 - Sanhedrin Court - Daylight full Jewish court trial**

**Inside (Mark picks up at trial 3) Mark 14:53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together.**

**Cut to – Outside 54Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.**

**When you run from God ever notice how quickly someone seeks company w/ the ungodly. I just want to blend in…**

**Back inside – Inside 55The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. 56Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. (couldn’t keep their stories straight) 57Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’”**

**For them, to speak against the temple was to speak against God Himself. The temple had become an idol of worship**

**Jesus never said, “made with human hands” – He was referring to himself. Those were accusation of being a terrorist. In all of Rome attacks on places of worship are a capital offense.**

**They were adding to the words of Jesus to serve their agenda.**

**Diabolical – a half-truth that kills. An element of truth with a lie turns Jesus’ resurrection prophecy into death (we saw it in the garden, we see it here, and we see it today)**

**59Yet even then their testimony did not agree. (Lies breed lies – that breed lies – eventually they cannot be controlled – tip: always tell the truth and you will never need to remember what you said.)**

**60Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” (What do you have to say about yourself?) 61But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.**

**Jesus never responded to the liars - (Let the lord fight for you). He was not going to fuel their lies and false hoods.**

**61b Again, the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” (Are you God in the flesh?) 62“I am,” said Jesus. (Declaring his divinity as the great I am in shackles when it was least credible)** **“And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Mark 13 – Jesus referring the fall of the nation and temple – right hand of authority and coming on the clouds – OT reference) 63The high priest tore his clothes.**

**Blasphemous! They knew what Jesus was saying to them!**

**In a sense Jesus was putting them on trial - Jesus says I am the judge, and you are guilty, and your punishment is coming.**

**“Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. 64“You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death.**

**They did not like his teachings and resistance to their ways – but Jesus was condemned to death for blasphemy- “I am God”**

**65Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophesy!” And the guards took him and beat him.**

**They reacted in violence and bizarre torture.**

**Just the thought of this- trying to humiliate and physically hurt**

**Isaiah 53:7He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.**

**How much more should we be ready to praise his name!**

**Meanwhile outside - at the same time Mark 14:66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. 67When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. 68But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” (I don’t know what you’re talking about!) he said and went out into the entryway. (Jesus the night before, “you will deny me 3X” – #1)**

 **69When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” 70Again he denied it. (no, no – I’m not! - #2)**

**After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” 71He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” (#3)**

**72Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twiceyou will disown me three times.” (words of Jesus convicted him) And he broke down and wept.**

**Who am I, what have I done!?!? I am a failure! I am a liar! God is finished with me! Ever felt like that? I have…**

**Meanwhile – Inside Mark 15:1 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So, they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. (To bring an indictment)**

**Did not want to be responsible for killing Jesus. They did not want to look like the bad guys - let’s make this a crime against Rome.**

**6AM - T4 - Governor Pilate - Send him to the local politicians.**

**7AM - T5 - King Herod (Jesus is silent. Mad, he sent him back.)**

**7:30AM - T6 - Back to Governor Pilate**

**(Mark pick us back with Pilate trial 6) 2“Are you the king of the Jews?” (Are you trying to start an insurrection? Do you have pollical goals?) asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. (It is what you say – that is a true statement) 3The chief priests accused him of many things. (They list claims against Jesus)**

**Luke 23:2-5 Says they accused Jesus of inciting a riot, to not pay their taxes, and sought political power over Rome. All lies!**

**4So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” 5But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. (Amazed at the calmness of Jesus – a presence of confidence)**

**8AM – Trial 7 - Before the crowd – the case given to the jury**

**6Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. (Feeling Jesus is innocent and his wife warning him… he gave a way out - Pilate takes it to the people)**

**7A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. (What uprising? Gives a pin in time) 8The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. (release a prisoner during the holiday week)**

**Who is this Barabbas? Bar(son) abba(father)= son of the father**

**He is an insurrectionists / terrorist / murderer.**

**History and older copies of Matt 27:16 - give Barabbas full name - “Yeshua Bar-Abbas” = “Jesus the Son of the Father”. On this day there was a choice between “Jesus the Son of the Father” or “Jesus the Son of the Father” (one a rebel – one the king)**

**9 “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. (He thought Jesus was innocent – give them the innocent guy) 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. 12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. 13 “Crucify him!” they shouted. (Pilate was in a was in a tough spot) 14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”**

**5 days earlier crowds shouting “Hosanna!” What a horrifying sound and response to Jesus – how could it turn so bleak? This was not same crowd but a packed jury, plants from the Sanhedrin.**

**15Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. (If anyone was able to say, “Jesus died for me,” it was Barabbas.)**

**Matt 27:24 - Pilate washed his hands to it… Whatever. Have him. Send him to the cross. We will pick up there next week.**

**The Great Rejection of the King – the characters…**

**The Companion – The king is rejected by the scared friend Peter**

**Represents those fair weather friends and followers of Jesus.**

**They reject Jesus because they are afraid of what others will say and think of them. They privately love Jesus but publicly keep it a secret out of fear of intimidation and conflict.**

**The Controllers – The king is rejected by the prideful religious leaders**

**Represents those who manipulate others w/religion & control.**

**They reject Jesus because they don’t like what he says and teaches.**

**They want a Jesus they can control and a Jesus that gives them a religion that meets their opinions. Pride and arrogance = rejection.**

**The Commander – The king is rejected by the politicians**

**Knew the testimony of Jesus. Represents those who seek earthly fame, position, and power. Rejected Jesus for power.**

**They reject Jesus because he does not meet their narrative of politics and power. Pilate wanted more control and influence. The biblical Jesus is not seeking a worldly kingdom.**

**(John expounds on Jesus and Pilate conversation.) John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world… 37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” (Pilate says, “whatever”)**

**Great question? It all comes down to that - to know truth is to listen and believe in Jesus.**

**The Crowd – The king is rejected by the crowds of people**

**Represents those that are easily influenced and lead astray**

**They reject Jesus – because they don’t really know who he is. Not discerning the word of God or thinking for themselves – They are easily led astray by others they go along with the loudest people.**

**The Con man – The King was rejected by the guilty Barabbas**

**Represents self-serving – self-interest people. Oblivious to the harm caused to others**

**Barabbas rejected Jesus because he meant nothing to him – Jesus was just a step to getting what he wanted. People like this choose the world over Jesus.**

**His name was - “Yeshua Bar-Abbas”. This name means “Jesus the Son of the Father” The crowd chose the false Jesus.**

**On this day today – there is still a choice… Which Jesus do you want?**

**The Jesus who meets your agenda or**

**The Jesus who calls us to lay down our agenda**

**Which Jesus do you want?**

**The one that serves your purpose or his purpose?**

**The one that asks nothing of you or the one that ask for everything?**

**What is the answer? “But I have failed him – I have rejected him… I chose myself… Jesus would never want me.”**

**You see Jesus was rejected, so that we would never be rejected again.**

**His rejection – means you are accepted. By faith in Chris…**

**“Accept one another, then, just as Christ has accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Romans 15:7)**

**For Peter that early morning was as extreme embarrassment and spiritual failure. The word of Jesus pierced is heart.**

**After the resurrection Jesus went to Peter confirmed his love for him privately and publicly = and gave him a chance to start over. And Peter took it – and with that grace – Peter changed the world.**

**Next week - The beating and crucifixion**