

Lent Course 2020 from Luke's Gospel

Luke 23:13-25

Three Witnesses: Pilate, Crowd, Barabbas

Who represents us in the crowd?

Is it Pilate? He knows Jesus is innocent. He has the power to protect the innocent, but he chooses not to use it. Why? He made the popular choice, not the right one. He chose the easy way, rather than the right one.

We do the same. It's called cowardice. When standing with Jesus becomes too inconvenient, Pilate is out.

Is it the crowd? This is not just any old crowd. This is a carefully controlled mob, a riot by invitation only.

We are all, right at the core of our being, God's enemies. That is our natural attitude towards God. God stands between us and our desire to run the world in the way that we want to. So we would rather have a murderer among us than God himself.

Is it Barabbas? He is the very opposite of the person we would like to be. He was on death row, dreading what was ahead. When the guards came for him, he must have thought that his number was up. He was dragged out, no doubt thinking his time had come. Then he was set free.

We are just like Barabbas. Jesus has taken our place, and we have been set free.

I suspect we won't grasp the events of Good Friday unless we stand in Barabbas' shoes, and find they fit us.