

☥ The Seed of God's Word ☥

Unit C3 - Lesson 7: Release of Barabbas

Lesson Prayer

Merciful God, we know what it cost your Son to give his life for us. We thank you that in the midst of our rejection, you remained faithful and never swayed from your saving purpose. Forgive us for the times we have failed you, that we may not trust in ourselves, but only in what you have done for us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: Matthew 27:11-26

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so."

¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

²²Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

²⁵And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Second Lesson: Psalm 94:14-22

¹⁴The LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage; ¹⁵for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.

¹⁶Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers?

¹⁷If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. ¹⁸When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. ¹⁹When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.

²⁰Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute? ²¹They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.

²²But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.



The Seed of God's Word — Weekly Scripture Inserts. Layout and Prayers © by Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com). Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. For active subscribers of the Sola Electronic Education Database (SEED), permission is granted to reproduce this sheet for local congregational use.