



Discussion Questions and Diving Deeper Practice

1. Seeing the King Clearly

Pilate and the crowd both misunderstood what kind of King Jesus was.

- What expectations about Jesus might we carry that are more shaped by power, success, or control than by self-giving love?

2. Choosing Barabbas

The crowd chose the violent rebel over the suffering Messiah.

- In what subtle ways do we still choose “Barabbas” — preferring control, force, or self-protection over surrender and trust?

3. Personal Identification

You said, “We stand in his sandals.”

- Where do you most clearly see yourself in Barabbas?
(Pride? Anger? Self-justification? Independence? Fear?)

4. The Great Exchange

“The innocent King stands where the guilty stand, so the guilty can stand where the Son stands.”

- What does it mean for you personally that Jesus took *your* place — not theoretically, but specifically?

5. From Acquittal to Sonship

Substitution is not just forgiveness; it is identity transfer.

- What changes in how you see yourself if you truly believe you now stand where the Son stands?

Communal Spiritual Practice - “Living the Exchange”

This practice works beautifully in small groups or around tables.

Step 1 — Silence (2 minutes)

Invite everyone into silence.

Ask them to imagine Barabbas walking out of prison.

- The chains were removed. The door is opening. The hammer was falling behind him.

Then ask quietly:

“What did Jesus carry that was mine?”

Let them sit with that.

Step 2 — Naming (Small Group Sharing)

In groups of 3–4, each person completes this sentence:

“Jesus stood in my place for my _____.”

Encourage specificity:

- My anger. My self-reliance. My addiction. My need to control. My hidden shame.

No fixing. No teaching. Just listening.

After each person shares, the group responds:

“Jesus stood there for you.”

Step 3 — The Exchange Declaration (All Together)

Bring everyone back together.

Lead them in this corporate declaration:

Leader:

We stood condemned.

People:

Christ stood in our place.

Leader:

We were guilty.

People:

Christ bore our guilt.

Leader:

We deserved death.

People:

Christ received our sentence.

All together:

The innocent King stood where the guilty stand so the guilty can stand where the Son stands.

Step 4 — Freed to Follow (Commissioning)

End with this question:

“Because Jesus stood in my place, this week I will follow Him in _____.”

Write it down. This is not an emotional response; it is a directional response.

This is stepping into the freedom to follow Jesus. Not guilt. No shame. Just Jesus calling you.