

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

Standing Before Jesus

Mark 15:1-15

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Mark 14-15 This passage answers the question: How does Jesus deal with injustice?

- Not by resisting.
- Not by defending.
- Not by retaliating.

But by absorbing it. Jesus allows human injustice so that divine justice can be satisfied at the cross.

Mark structures the story to show every institution failing:

Institution	Responsibility	Failure
Religion	Discern truth	Envy
Government	Enforce justice	Cowardice
Crowd	Moral conscience	Mob violence

Justice collapses everywhere.

- When facts aren't facts.
- When truth is interpreted.
- When majority voice is distorted.

Pilate compromised his CONVICTIONS for CONVENIENCE. This is the deception of power.

"Never let us be guilty of sacrificing any portion of truth on the altar of peace." - J.C. Ryle

The Cultural Progression

- Postmodernism said: "Truth is interpreted."
- Post-truth said: "Truth is felt."
- Post-fact now says: "Truth is irrelevant."

Barabbas received freedom but refused gratefulness. Barabbas' freedom is an illustration of the freedom that Christ brings, when he takes the punishment that we all deserve, so that we can go free.

Truths from this passage:

- It is possible for a human to agree with the truth but not live by the truth.
- It is possible for a person to be sincere in their exploration but refuse submission. Because knowledge is not enough.
- It is possible for a human being to be set free but refuse to acknowledge the salvation provided for them.

We need to submit to a power that we can trust is built around love. Love's APEX is SELF-SACRIFICE:

- Jesus demonstrates that true power is embracing powerlessness.
- Jesus demonstrates that to accomplish true justice you have to be willing to suffer injustice.

Date: March 22nd, 2026

Series: Follow

Title: Standing Before Jesus

Primary Passage: Mark 15:1-15

Big Question: How can someone stand before Jesus and feel nothing.

Big Idea: It is possible to stand face-to-face with Jesus and feel nothing, not because He is unclear, but because the human heart can become committed to something else.

Keywords: Injustice, Truth, Fact, Crowd, Chaos, Ungrateful, Substitute.

Going Deeper – Life Application Questions

When did your love increase this week? When was love challenged this week?

When was a time that you faced injustice? What spiritual effects did it have on you? How did you process the anger?

Read Mark 15:1-15. Where do you see each institution fail in Mark 14–15 (religion, government, crowd)?

Which failure do you most resonate with personally, envy, cowardice, or going along with the crowd?

What does that reveal about how you tend to respond when truth becomes costly?

Pilate knew the truth but chose convenience. Where are you tempted to compromise conviction for comfort, approval, or peace? What would it look like, practically, to hold onto truth in that situation—even if it costs you?

Barabbas is set free but gives no response. In what ways is it possible in your life to receive the benefits of Jesus (forgiveness, grace) without fully submitting to him? Is there an area where you are “free,” but not yet grateful or surrendered?

Jesus does not resist, defend, or retaliate but absorbs injustice. How does this challenge your instinctive response to being wronged? What would it look like this week to reflect Christ by entrusting yourself to God and responding with self-giving love instead of self-protection?

Spend some time praying through effects that you carry from injustice. Find that Jesus both understands injustice and is able to free us from its power.