

Give us Barabbas or Give us Jesus

Engaging The Culture

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Give us Barabbas or Give us Jesus

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- I. Previous Series: Going Forward
 - A. Exodus 14:¹⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:
 - B. Failing Forward, Born to Go Forward, Wealthy Place, After the Purge I & II, Pursue
- II. Series: Engaging the Culture
 - A. Matthew 10:³⁴ **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword**
 - B. Matthew 10:³⁵ **For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.**
 - C. Subject: Armed Resistance
 1. Armed with Confession (Not Ashamed)
 2. Armed with a Sword (Not Destroyed)
 3. Armed with Resistance (Not Stopped)
- III. Homework: Study Matthew 10:32-36
 - A. In addition to question from last week, answer the following
 - B. Is Confession of Sin necessary to be saved? If so, what scriptures prove this? If not, then what is?
- IV. Text
 - A. Matthew 27:11–22 (AV)¹¹ And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, **Thou sayest.** ¹² And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³ Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? ¹⁴ And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly. ¹⁵ Now at *that* feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. ¹⁶ And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷ Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? ¹⁸ For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. ¹⁹ When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. ²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. ²² Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? *They* all say unto him, Let him be crucified.
- V. Subject: Engaging The Culture: Give us Barabbas or Give us Jesus
 - A. Last week we started a series entitle “Engaging the Culture”, the premise being how do we as Christians engage the world that we are been placed in.
 1. Culture: the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group.
 2. The Challenge being that our culture has embraced sexual immorality, violence, death, abortion, falling away from holiness and righteousness; church altogether.
 3. Over 44 Million Abortions, 33K Gun Deaths per year, Political & Religions leadership without any character or core values, millennial generation that’s leaving the church in droves.
 4. We are truly in the times that Paul said would be perilous, and people would not endure sound doctrine
 - B. Our answer to engaging this Culture last week was to Resist It.
 1. Matthew 10:³⁴ **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but**

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a sword ³⁵ For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

2. When the Culture has become antithetical to the things of God, we are not here to be embrace our culture, but engage it through resistance.
- C. Today we want to look at the Choices we are to make as Christians in this Culture.
 1. Someone said to me, Pastor when you say certain things, it offends people, and some will literally get up and leave; other won't come back.
 2. But what we have to ask ourselves is what did Jesus do when faced with his culture
 - a. First of all, he never tried to defend himself to the prevailing culture
 - b. Secondly, he never tried to conform to the multitude of the culture
 - c. Finally, he never tried to save himself from suffering or even death.
- D. The World, our culture, has made choice, and it is not the Choice of our Lord and Savior.
 1. When the Governor, Pontius Pilate, said he found not fault in Jesus, he asked the people to choose Jesus, the King of the Jews, or Barabbas, a robber.
 2. And they said give us Barabbas, and Crucify Jesus.
 3. Barabbas represents the prevailing thought, culture, attitudes of the people.
 4. Joshua 24:15 (AV)¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
- E. Subject: Embracing the Culture: Give us Barabbas or Give us Jesus (Choose You This Day) – “Choose to Defend or Offend, Conform or Transform, Save or Suffer”

VI. Choose to Defend or Offend

- A. Matthew 27:¹¹ And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, **Thou sayest.** ¹² And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.
- B. Why do we Defend? Because we don't like being wrong!
 1. A major reason we struggle in relationships, marriages, churches, and families, is when someone criticize, condemn or complain, we become defensive.
 2. Now the reason why they are criticizing us, complaining about us, or condemning us is because something about us offends them.
 3. The problem with our propensity to defend ourselves is that our assignment as Christians is offensive. Our primary assignment is to tell a lost and dying world that they are lost and dying, filled with evil, obsesses with the cares of the world.
 4. They will defend themselves, demanding that we defend ourselves to get along
- C. To Engage the Culture, we must Choose to Offend
 1. Our lord and savior was offensive.
 - a. Matthew 13:57 (AV)⁵⁷ And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, **A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.**
 - b. Luke 7:22–23 (AV)²² Then Jesus answering said unto them, **Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.** ²³ **And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**
 2. We must offend because the World needs to Live: blind need to see, the lame need to walk, the deaf need to hear, and the dead need to live.
 3. Luke 4:18 (AV)¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the**

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gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

4. John 3:16 (AV)¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

D. Choose to Offend so that the World Can Live.

VII. Choose to Conform or Transform

A. Matthew 27: ¹⁹ When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. ²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

B. Why do we Conform? Because we don't like being on the Wrong Side of Team!

1. Not only do we not like being wrong, we don't like being on the wrong side.
2. The Governor's wife saw the side of the Jesus, but the multitude saw the side of the world. They were presented with both, but they made the wrong choice.
3. Matthew 7:13–14 (AV)¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
4. Since we want to be on the winning team, we assume it's the multitude, the large crowd, the culture. And so, like the multitude, we conform to them.

C. To Engage the Culture, we must Choose to Transform

1. Our Lord and Savior was Transformed
 - a. Philippians 2:6–7 (AV)⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
2. We must Transform because the World needs to See
3. Romans 12:2 (AV)² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
4. When we transform ourselves, we will then be able to Transform the world.
5. Matthew 5:14–16 (AV)¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

D. Choose to Transform so that the World Can See

VIII. Choose to Save or Suffer

A. Matthew 27: ²² Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? *They* all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

B. To Engage the Culture

1. We must Chose to Offend rather than Defend
2. We must Chose to Transform rather than Conform
3. We must Chose to Suffer rather than Save

C. Jesus made a Choice, and that Choice was to Suffer for us

1. Jesus Chose to Suffer so that we could live
 - a. John 3:16 (AV)¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
2. Jesus Chose to be Wounded so we could be healed

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- a. Isaiah 53: ⁵But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, ... bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

D. Now we must make the same choice, to Suffer not to Save:

1. Luke 9: ²³And he said to *them* all, **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.** ²⁴For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.
2. Everyone is too busy trying to save their lives. Save their emotional lives, save their financial lives, save their physical lives.
3. Mark 4:19 (AV) ¹⁹And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.
4. Mark 8: ³⁶For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul
5. The only life that matters is our Spiritual Life.

E. To Engage the Culture, we must Choose to Suffer

1. Hebrews 11:24–25 (AV) ²⁴By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;
2. Luke 9:23–24 (AV) ²³And he said to *them* all, **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**
 - a. We must be willing to Deny ourselves
 - b. We must be willing to Take up our Cross
 - c. We must be willing to Follow Christ

F. 1 Peter 5:10 (AV) ¹⁰But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

G. Romans 8:18 (AV) ¹⁸For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.