



Barabbas released, but Jesus is flogged.

Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:13 – 25; John 18:39 – 19:1

- **Mark 15:6 – 11 NIV** “Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner who the people requested. ⁷A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.”

As the above scripture reference indicates, it was a tradition that Pilate would release one prisoner of the people's choosing during the Feast of the Passover. At this point, Pilate is convinced that Jesus had done nothing to warrant the type of treatment which the chief priests were advocating. So he offers the crowd a choice of two men to be released, Jesus or Barabbas. Again, the chief priests are responsible for inciting the crowd against Jesus, choosing a murderer to be released instead of an innocent man.

Now we get a glimpse at the integrity, or lack thereof, of Pilate. Being confident that Jesus was not guilty of the charges levied against Him by the Sanhedrin, Pilate still gives in to the crowd and their demand for Barabbas to be freed and Jesus to be crucified. However, this was not until after Pilate ceremonially washes his hands of this situation, declaring himself innocent of Jesus' blood and telling the crowd that the responsibility falls on them. It's pretty clear that Pilate just doesn't want anything to do with this. It is at this point that Pilate orders the sentencing of Jesus to be scourged and crucified.

- **Matt. 27: 26 NKJV** “Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.”

Roman flogging (scourging) consisted of the victim being stripped and stretched against a pillar or bent over a low post, and the hands tied. The instrument of torture, the Roman scourge (also known as a flagrum or flagellum) was a short wooden handle to which several leather straps were attached, with bits of iron or bone attached, in intervals, to the straps. The blows were laid on the victim's back by two men, one lashing the victim from one side, one from the other side. This resulted in the flesh being cut to such an extent the veins, arteries and sometimes even inner organs were exposed. Often the victim died during the flogging. This particular punishment was often called 40 minus 1 stripes (40 stripes was considered the death sentence).

- **Isa. 50: 6 NKJV** "I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."
- **Isa. 52: 14 NKJV** "Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;
- **Revelation 5:6 NKJV** "And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain . . ."

Prophecy & Fulfillment

The Messiah would be whipped on the back.

Prophecy

Isaiah 50:6 "I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."

Fulfillment

Mark 15:15 "So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified."

The Messiah's body would be disfigured.

Prophecy

Isaiah 52:14 "Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men."

Fulfillment

Revelation 5:6 "And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth."