



On Sunday we considered Matthew 27:11-26 as Jesus faces trial before Pilate (and the crowd). We looked at it from both a street-level and high overhead view considering both Human Failure but also Divine Fruit. It may look like a mess and mayhem, but God is at work, perhaps especially at work. We noted his

- silence (he was the sacrificial lamb from Isaiah 53)
- solidarity (we stand with the (fickle) crowd in our condemnation of Jesus. In our sin our natural reaction to God is either fight or flight)
- substitution (Jesus dies instead of Barabbas. The innocent for the guilty)
- strength (Matthew's compare and contrast for us with two Jesus' who are being tried for insurrection - asking us what kind of king we want)

A few questions to help your group get to grips with the account and consider what it means for us

- Who are the different players within this account? What role does each person or group play? Where do we see humanity at its worst?
- Do you agree that Barabbas is 'a mirror for us'? Why or why not?
- What do you make of the idea that Matthew sets up Jesus Messiah and Jesus Barabbas (son of the Father) as two alternatives to strength? Why might he do this?
- How do you respond to this account?