

Building the Bridge Between The Trail And Judgement

Release the bandit, Barabas, the people demanded last week! Interesting enough, earlier in John's Gospel, when speaking of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, he writes about the sheep knowing the voice of the true shepherd, while others would fall for the voice of the bandit. It is the only other time the word bandit is mentioned in John's Gospel. Perhaps John intentionally made that connection?

With Barabas released, Pilate now has to figure out what to do with Jesus. Caught up in this crazy mob scene, Pilate feels trapped. At one level, having asked "What is truth?", he knows it. Jesus, while spouting radical teachings, Jesus is not worth the cost of wood he would be crucified on. Yet, the people are demanding blood.

If the truth is Jesus, then the next question is who is more powerful - Caesar and the Roman Empire? Or is this common criminal who stands before Pilate, bound, beaten, and wearing a purple robe and a crown of thorns?

Jesus before Pilate - Act 2: