

**God's Story Our Story - NT**  
*People on the Road to the Cross*  
April 13, 2025  
Pastor Mike Rippy

**Five People at the Divide**

*Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." <sup>3</sup> And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." ... <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.*

*Luke 23 1-4 & 23-24 (ESV)*

✓ **Person of Interest #1 – Pilate: The Preoccupied.**

- Truth – Distraction sends more people to hell than Disbelief ever will.

*But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place." <sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. <sup>9</sup> So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer... <sup>11</sup> And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Vs. 5-9, 11-12 (ESV)*

✓ **Person of Interest #2 – Herod: The Superficial.**

- Truth – The Good News is He can Heal and Restore, the hard news is it calls for Complete

### Repentance.

*The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Vs.10*

#### ✓ **Person of Interest #3 – The Chief Priests: The Religious**

➤ Truth – Coming to Jesus requires Complete Surrender and Obedience

*Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— <sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Vs. 13-19*

#### ✓ **Person of Interest #4 – Barabbas: The Guilty**

➤ Truth – We are Barabbas.

*And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. Vs. 23*

*And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. Mark 115:21 (ESV)*

*Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. Romans 16:13 (ESV)*

#### ✓ **Person of Interest #5 – Simon of Cyrene: The Disciple**

➤ He’s calling you to be His Disciple.

#### **MY NEXT STEP:**

➤ Today **ANSWER** the Call of Jesus.

➤ **ATTEND** our Good Friday Service this Friday at 7:00

p.m. ➤ **BRING** several guests next Sunday on Easter.

➤ **INVITE** friends/family to see you be Baptized, Sunday  
April 27.