

SERMON OUTLINE APRIL 9, 2017

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

Matthew 27:20-22

INTRODUCTION: *This morning we are going to talk about decisions . . .*

I. SOME BIG DECISIONS WERE MADE BETWEEN PALM SUNDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

- A. Jesus is now at trial, & some bad decisions had already been made by Judas, Peter, and the other disciples
- B. And now, at Jesus' trial, we meet a faceless crowd, a Roman Governor, & a criminal named Barabbas.
- C. The 1st big decision has to be made by the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate . . . and he cannot seem to make up his mind (*Matthew 27:22-26*)
- D. The 2nd big decision has to be made by the crowd . . . and it is a surprising decision (*vv. 22-26*)
- D. But the truth is, we should not be surprised . . . what is behind their decision is what is behind our bad decisions today: Sin!

II. THANKFULLY, GOD ALSO MADE A BIG DECISION

- A. God, in His mercy for sinners, identifies us with Barabbas
- B. Jesus, Who was given as Barabbas' substitute, is also given as our substitute
- C. This is "***The Great Exchange***" (*2 Corinthians 5:21 & 8:9*)
- D. God's decision for us is called forgiveness

CONCLUSION: *"Hey, you, Barabbas!
Run, jump, & shout . . . you are set free!"*

