**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ February 20, 2022**

**Jesus Stands Trial**

Mark 15:1-15

**Key Truth:** The courage of Jesus brings freedom to the crowd, the coward and the condemned.

**The Crowd:**

1. They were being manipulated by the religious leaders.

2. They were fickle in their allegiance to Jesus.

3. They rejected Jesus as their King and turned against Him.

**The Coward Pilate**

1. Pilate knew the right thing to do but refused because of fear.

2. He allowed politics to overrule his conscience.

 **Matthew 27:18-20, Luke 23:18-25**

3. Pilate tried to shift responsibility onto the crowd.

**The Condemned Barabbas:**

1. Knew he was guilty.

2. Jesus took his place on the cross.

3. Barabbas was giving a chance to live life differently.

**What We Learn**:

1. There is no neutrality to our decision regarding Jesus.

2. Knowing about Jesus doesn’t make you a Christian.

3. Trusting Jesus as your Lord will go against the cultural

 crowd.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God that Jesus courageously stood for us even when we were rightfully condemned. Remember to live a life of gratitude and purpose.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is “courageous” typically an attribute you think of when you think of Jesus? Why or why not?

What was the chief priests and scribes motivation for accusing Jesus before Pilate?

Read Mark 15:6-15: Does the crowd’s reaction surprise you? Why or why not?

What sticks out to you the most from the story of Barabbas? How do you see the gospel on display in his story? Do you resonate more with the story of Peter or Barabbas? Why?

How does finding yourself in that story change the way you look at Jesus’ crucifixion? How does it change the way you view people who don’t yet know Jesus?

We saw that Pilate was influenced by negative peer pressure, but we can also be influenced positively by peer pressure. God wants us to remain in community to have friends in our lives that help us along the way. Write down how you see this truth revealed in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

Read 1 Peter 3:18: How should it change the way we interact with others to remember that we are like Barabbas, who was completely deserving of his sentence but was set free by Jesus taking his place.