

**Crossroads**  
**Part 4 – “Prisoner Exchange”**  
**March 26, 2023**

**Mark 15:6-8**

Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

**Mark 15:9-11**

“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

**Mark 15:12-14**

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they shouted. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

**Mark 15:15**

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

**1 John 2:2**

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Your sentence was dropped when the prisoners were swapped.

**Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death.

**Group Questions:**

1. It bothers us when guilty people go free unless it's us. Can you name some examples of this in your own life? A time when you escaped punishment, even when you were guilty.
2. We love to discuss what's fair and get upset when we see unfairness in our world. Do you want God to treat you fairly? Can you accept those consequences?
3. Think of examples in your life when you have given in or taken the easy way out to avoid an unpleasant outcome. Looking back now, was it worth it?
4. Jesus, the innocent man, took the punishment we deserved, so we, the guilty, could have the freedom Jesus deserved. When Christians speak about “atonement”, it's always in reference to Jesus acting as our substitute. Jesus does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. What does that mean for how you practice your faith life?
5. Easter is in two weeks. Who are you inviting to Hope Church for Easter? Let your group know and then pray for those people (by name) as a group.