



## The King We Didn't Expect

March 29, 2026

Mark 15:1-20



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### Introduction:

When have you encountered Jesus in an *unexpected* way?

### UnExpected: Jesus before Pilate (Mark 15:1-5):

*1*And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. *2*And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." *3*And the chief priests accused him of many things. *4*And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." *5*But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed."

- Setting: Friday morning of Passover, Holy Week. Jesus arrested and brought before Roman Governor Pilate. (Mark 10:33 - "handed over to the Gentiles")
- "Are you King of the Jews?", only other time this is used is by the magi in Jesus' birth story.

### UnExpected: Choosing Barabbas (Mark 15:6-15):

*6*Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. *7*And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. *8*And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. *9*And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" *10*For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. *11*But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. *12*And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" *13*And they cried out again, "Crucify him." *14*And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." *15*So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

- During this week when nationalistic pride ran high, Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd.
- The Chief priests stir up the crowd to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus.

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### **Unexpected: A King Beaten and Mocked (Mark 15: 16-20)**

“16And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. 17And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 19And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. 20And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.”

- **The creature beating and mocking the Creator all so the Creator might save and redeem the creature!**
  - Crown of thorns - (Thorns are a result of the fall!)
- This isn’t the fate of the Messiah they were expecting!...doesn’t look like a king!

### **The King of Kings:**

Peter’s account of what happened this day! (Read Acts 3:13-16)

- Jesus is the “author of life”, the “Holy and Righteous One”
- Faith in Jesus, in His name brings healing.

John’s Vision from Revelation! (Read Revelation 19:11-16)

- Jesus is King! (Many diadems - crowns)
- Jesus is King, but not just of Jews, but of all nations

Jesus was born, lived and died in a way that was UNEXPECTED, though many aspects were prophesied.

### **He Still Comes in UNEXPECTED ways:**

- He comes in ways that challenge our preconceived ideas about God.
- He comes in ways that confront our presumptions about *how* He works.
- He comes in ways that stretch our understanding of His nature.

The Pharisees knew the scriptures but resisted and missed Jesus. (See John 12:10)

**Be Watching, Be Open, Be Stretchable but tethered to the core doctrines!**

**Be the Jesus someone isn’t expecting this week!**

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