

## **For Reflection:**

Since there is a festival going on, the crowd reminded Pilate that he is supposed to release one of the criminals that are currently awaiting crucifixion. The request gets Pilate thinking—maybe he can get the people to refute the religious rulers and ask for Jesus' release. Pilate doesn't believe that Jesus is guilty, and if he can get the majority on his side, Pilate can get out of the quandary of executing an innocent man.

Barabbas, a widely known outlaw has lied, cheated, stolen, murdered and committed treason. He is a real criminal. Jesus has healed the sick and preached the good news about God's love. He never hurt anyone. Barabbas doesn't like Rome and their control over Israel. Jesus is not out to overthrow Rome. He wants to initiate a spiritual kingdom. Barabbas is most likely a zealot—a savior wannabe of a political nature. Jesus is a peaceful prophet.

This is God's chance to turn this disaster around.

## **Today's Scripture:**

*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 (Mk 15:6-8, NIV).*

## Questions to Ponder:

Can you think of a time when a situation did not go the way you thought it should? Did matters turn around in a positive manner you didn't expect? Could there be a greater good that you have not yet been able to comprehend?

## Prayer:

Let nothing make me afraid. For even though life is short, if I put all my trust in you and not in passing things, I need not be concerned. Let me now cast aside my concerns, for if I have you God, I will want for nothing. You alone suffice. Amen (Theresa of Avila, Spain 1515-1582).

**Practice:** Justice – to seek to help others through correcting and redressing wrongs. It treats others fairly and shows no favoritism. It is to love others by seeking their good, protection, gain and fair treatment.

Example include:

- Being a good steward of what you own
- Supporting just causes with time, action and financial support
- Volunteering through means that are available to you in ministries that serve the poor and oppressed
- Treating others impartially and fairly

(Adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Justice)