

**Preaching Christ....  
...by the power of the Holy Spirit  
...and the authority of the Word of God**

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
**Services:** *Across the Diocese*  
**Series:** Scenes from the final hours  
**Title:** Jesus mocked scene  
**Passage:** Mark 15:1-20  
**Aim:** To show who Jesus is as lamb, substitute and servant. At the end of the message I want people to fall in awe before him.  
**Outline:** **Lamb**  
**Substitute**  
**Servant**

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Who **IS** this **man**?

And why won't he **answer**?

He's obviously in **very serious trouble!!! //**

courtesy of the religious leaders, he's been **arrested, already** condemned to **death, spat at, blindfolded, struck, ridiculed, beaten.**

Now – they have handed him over to the **Roman governor** – to Governor **Pilate.**

He's questioned now by **him.**

**“Are** you the king of **Jews?**”

**“Yes** – it is as you say”

**“Those are your words”** he says.

The same principle applies here as when Jesus was before the **Jewish** leaders

When they speak the **truth** // Jesus **answers**

When they speak **lies**, Jesus doesn't dignify their talk with a **response.** //

They accused him of many things – v3

But he made no **reply.**

Why don't you **defend** yourself **Jesus?**

Why won't you show the **false** nature of their **claims?**

Why don't you **cross examine?**

**Why?** ///

**Who are you?** ////

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He is the

**1. LAMB OF GOD...**

... He was **oppressed** and **afflicted**,  
yet he did not **open** his **mouth**;  
he was led like a **lamb** to the **slaughter**,  
and as a **sheep** before its **shearers** is **silent**,  
so **he did not open his mouth**. Isaiah 53:7 //

Prophecy is **fulfilled** in Jesus' silence //

We understand a little more about who this one is.

But that **Isaiah** passage is not the only one where the title '**lamb**' turns up

In **John's gospel** - when John the Baptist first saw Jesus as an adult he announced: *He is the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29)

In **Paul's** writings: Christ – is the **Passover Lamb** – sacrificed for **us** (1 Corinthians 5:7) – showing us that Jesus is the **fulfilment** of the ancient **Passover sacrifice** way back in **Egypt**. /

And in the **last** book of the Bible – when it's **all said** and **done** – and they are worshipping **Jesus** in **eternity** – **Jesus** is the **Lamb** slain for us – **Revelation 5:6**. //

**Who** is this **man**? //

His silence **alerts us**. //

The **Lamb** who came in complete **fulfilment** of the **Old Testament**.

The **Lamb** to whom the **Passover** always **pointed**

The **Lamb** who **silently stands** before his **accusers**

The **Lamb** who takes away **sin**... //

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**Barabbas** was there – he was a **trouble maker; revolutionist; murderer**

fuelled by **hate**

Driven by **revenge** //

Governor Pilate couldn't afford any trouble – his **own** job **depended** on it

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Tried to keep the **Jews onside**

**Released** a prisoner *every* **Passover //**

This year was **different //**

This **Jesus** was before him

Pilate was not **convinced** about **Jesus**

“What **crime** has he **committed?**”

But the crowd had been **stirred up**

They wanted **blood** now

There was no **alternative**

Nothing **else** would please **them**

And Pilate in the end, wanted to satisfy not **justice** – but the **crowd!! ////**

So the **guilty** goes **free //**

And the **innocent** is handed over to **death //**

Hang on – **WHAT** happened? //

The **guilty** goes **free!!!**

The **innocent dies** in their **place!??**

Who are you **Jesus?**

Who is this **man?**

He is our

## 2. **SUBSTITUTE**

Who one who takes the **place** of the **sinner** –

the **substitute**

**Barabbas’** story is **your** story too - if you are a **believer**

“that **man** – that one in the **centre** there out on the **hill** – he died in my **place** – that should have been **me** – that **cross** had my **name** on it – his **death** was **mine**”

Yes – **Jesus** is our **substitute //**

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Again Isaiah had painted this picture for us 700 years before

Isaiah 53 - *But he was pierced for **our** transgressions,  
he was crushed for our **iniquities**;  
the punishment that brought us **peace** was on **him**,  
... each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on **him**  
the **iniquity** of us **all**. //*

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

As Barabbas is **released** and Jesus **condemned** – **there** is the Easter **reality**

You can die **yourself**.

Or **Jesus can die for you** //

**There** is the Easter **invitation!**

**Come sinner** – come – in **sorrow** for **sin**; come with **repentance**; come in **surrender** to Jesus as **Lord** – and **his death** will be considered **yours** and **you** will go **free**...!! //

Jesus – our **substitute**... //

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Who are you **Jesus**...?

As you **go now** to **death**? //

As you face the **mocking** and the **ridicule**?

That purple **robe**... that **crown** of **thorns**?

Not “**Hail Caesar**” they **cry**

But “hail **King of the Jews**...!”

They’re **striking** you – why don’t you strike **back**? //

They pay homage to you – on their **knees** now **pretending**... why do you **take** it from **them**? ///

Oh if only they knew just how **appropriate** and **accurate** were both their **words** and their **deeds**? – yes **he IS King**!! – and yes you **should** be **bowing** the **knee**!! ///

**Who are you Jesus?** /

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Who are you – as they lead you now away? ///

### **3. SUFFERING SERVANT**

Isaiah told us – laid it out...

*<sup>2b</sup> he had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*

*<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.*

*Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Is 53*

Who are you?

The **suffering servant**

Suffering **for** us...

*For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the **transgression** of my people he was **punished**.*

Isaiah 53:8

The one who puts our needs **first**

The one who **humbled himself** even to **death** on the **cross**

The one who came not to be **served** but to **serve**

Who **surrendered** to his Father's **will** to **drink** the **cup of his judgement**

**My servant** – **your servant**

God the **Son**... **suffering** – **dying** – laying down his **life** // for **you**!!

Who is this **man**?

**Lamb**

**Substitute**

**Servant**

Mark the gospel writer – **fills** out here our **understanding**

**Shows** us how Jesus fulfils the **expectations** of the **prophets** long ago

It's the question Mark has been concerned to confront us with all along

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**Who is this man?**

Who is this man **whom winds and waves obey?**

Who is this man **who teaches with such authority?**

Who is this man **who the crowds run after?**

Who is this man who the **religious leaders** want to get **rid of so early on?**

**Who is this man** who willingly goes to **Jerusalem** even after telling his disciples what terrible things will happen up there?

**Who is this man** who speaks of his impending **death** as a **ransom** for **many?**

Who speaks of his **blood poured out** for the **forgiveness of sin?**

Who is this man who wrestles with **obedience** in the **garden?**

Who remains **silent** in the face of such cruel **mocking...?**

**Who is this man** who goes to his **death** with such **quiet dignity? ///**

This **man is Jesus!**

The **Lamb** of God, **who takes away the sin of the world**

This one is our **substitute** who goes to his **death** so that **we are released**

He is the **servant** - the suffering servant – who carries our sin and bears our iniquity....

**That's who he is //...**

And he did all this for **you**

He loves **you**

He died for **you**

AND he was **raised in triumph**

And he calls on you to follow him **unreservedly**

To love him with all **your heart**

To offer your **bodies** as a living **sacrifice**

To be completely **for him**

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As he was and is completely for **you**. //

He calls on you today to take him **seriously** – and not for **granted**

To put him **first** not **second or third**

To seek **his** glory not **yours**

To build **his** kingdom not **yours**

To do **his** will not **yours**

And to be **transformed...**

...to stop **playing** with or excusing **sin**

To **take up the fight**

To speak **up** for him

To **live** for him

**Give** for him

And some of you – to **GO** for him.

He is Jesus

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