

The Three Crosses

Face to Face | Week 6

Hayden | Mar 26th and Mar 29th 2026 | Gabe Cleave



THE HARD TRUTH ABOUT US: We are not just observers in the story—we are participants.

Matthew 27: 27:1-2; 11-18; 20-31; 35-46; 50

It is easy to look at the crowd and ask, “*Why would they do this to Jesus?*”

But Scripture forces us to look deeper.

We are the crowd.

We are the criminals.

Our sin is what put Jesus on the cross.

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We often cry out for fairness in life. But if we truly received what was fair, we would receive judgment.

Fairness sends us to hell. Grace sends Jesus to the cross.

THE TWO RESPONSES TO JESUS (Luke 23:39–43)

One criminal mocked Jesus, saying:

“Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

The other responded very differently:

“We are punished justly... but this man has done nothing wrong... Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

And Jesus replied:

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Both men were equally close to Jesus.

Both heard the same words.

Both saw the same Savior.

But only one was changed.

You can be close to Jesus and still miss Him completely.

BARABBAS: THE STORY OF SUBSTITUTION

There was another man that day—Barabbas.

A guilty man. A criminal. Sitting in a cell, knowing death was coming.

Then suddenly, the door opens.
Instead of chains... freedom.
Instead of death... release.
Why?
Because someone else took his place.
That someone was Jesus.

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Barabbas walks free... while Jesus carries the cross meant for him.
And that is not just his story—it is ours.

THE CHOICE WE ALL FACE

Every person must answer the same question:
What will you do with Jesus?

One criminal rejected Him.
One criminal surrendered to Him.
One demanded rescue from circumstances.
The other asked for mercy for his soul.
One died in sin.
The other died in faith.

THE INVITATION

Salvation is not about having everything figured out.
It is about recognizing your need and trusting in Jesus.
Like the second criminal:

- Admit your sin
- Acknowledge who Jesus is
- Ask for mercy

And Jesus still responds the same way today.

THE PROMISE

Romans 8:38–39

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

FINAL TRUTH

**You are Barabbas.
Jesus took your cross.
Now the choice is yours.**

