

Barabbas – Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Barabbas is described as a notorious prisoner whom Pilate shrewdly offered as an exchange for Jesus, assuming the people would not want him back on the street. Is it realistic to imagine him as a sort of “crime boss”?

Does the fact that he was a notorious prisoner and has not yet been executed seem abnormal in the Roman justice system?

Is it likely that the Jewish leaders had shameful secrets? (See Matthew 23:27, “Whitewashed tombs.”)

What is the focus of a criminal lifestyle?

What characteristics do career criminals value?

What would have been his response to the repentant thief?

How was he a disappointment as a criminal?

What impressed Barabbas about Jesus?

What characteristics of Jesus were admirable to Barabbas?

What characteristics were inexplicable?

Is it possible that the Lord specifically arranged for events to take place so that Barabbas would be the one pardoned?

What might be reasons for that?

Some traditions hold that Barabbas later became a believer. How would his conversion have affected the church?

Regardless whether he really did convert, can we be assured that it is possible?