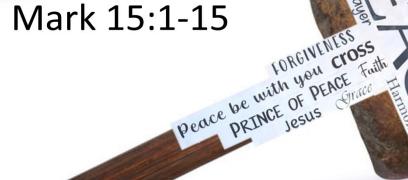
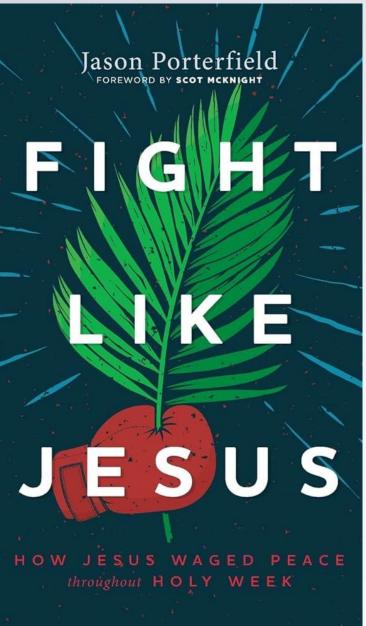
Sermon

FORGIVENESS

reedom



Hammer of Peace





Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

9 "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate ... 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.



Matthew 27:17 (NIV)

17 So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you:

Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

"Bar" + "Abba" "Son of" + "the Father"



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

Throughout Holy Week, two competing ways of making peace collide. And now, as two rival messiahs stand before us, we must choose between the two approaches to peacemaking they represent. This is the fundamental decision confronting us on Good Friday....



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

As Brian Zahnd summarizes the options: Jesus of Nazareth calls us to the way of peace by loving our enemies and the practice of radical forgiveness. Jesus Barabbas is willing to fight our wars and kill our enemies in the name of freedom." (pp. 154-155)



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

Jesus Barabbas

Vengeance Violence Vindictive Hammer of Force Quick fix

Jesus of Nazareth

Passion Peace Passive Hammer of Peace ??



Luke 3:21-23 (NIV)

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." 23 Now Jesus himself was Mark 15:1-15 about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

Hammer of Peace

Luke 4:1-13 (NIV)

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.



Luke 4:1-13 (NIV)

3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone."



Luke 4:1-13 (NIV) **5 The devil led him up to a high place and** showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours."

8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."



Luke 4:1-13 (NIV)

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully ... " 12 Jesus answered, "It is said: Mark 15:1-15 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

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Luke 4:14-30 (NIV)

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

The significance should not be lost on us that Jesus had an opportunity to die like a scapegoat on the Day of Atonement, yet he chose instead to lay down his life on Passover. The Day of Atonement is about forgiveness. Passover, on the other hand, is about

liberation. (p. 147)



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

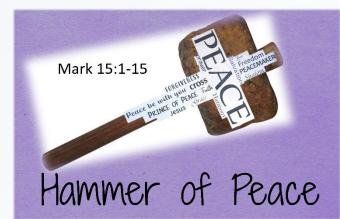
On the first Passover, God liberated the people of Israel from Egyptian

enslavement. ... They spent the next forty years wandering the desert as God worked tirelessly to liberate them from their harmful ways of living and mistaken beliefs about what God is like. (p. 147)



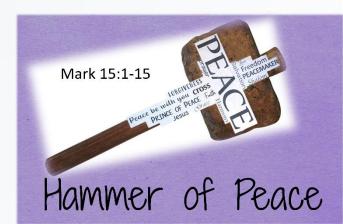
John 14:6 (NIV)

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life."



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

Mercy: Not receiving the negative outcomes we do deserve. Grace: Receiving positive outcomes we don't deserve.



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

- 15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. 2 "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so,"
- Jesus replied.



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."
5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

6 Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. 7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

9 "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

12 "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. 13 "Crucify him!" they shouted. 14 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" 15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, Mark 15:1-15 and handed him over to be crucified.

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Luke 23:34 (NIV)

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."



Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

Lesson 1: Christlike peacemakers live by a spirit of mercy, never vengeance.



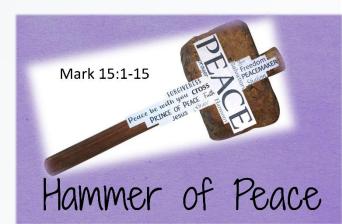
Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

Lesson 2: To embrace Jesus' way of making peace, Christlike peacemakers must reject the Barabbas alternative.



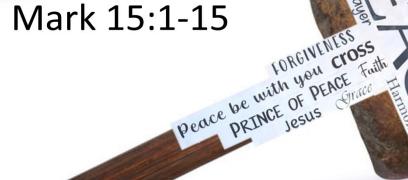
Mark 15:1-15 (NIV)

Lesson 3: Instead of retaliating in kind, Christlike peacemakers break the cycle of violence by forgiving.



Sermon

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LORGINENESS