



Terrorism On the Streets by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Question: It seems to me that the expression "freedom of speech" seems to apply to those who preach violence in the name of religion, but doesn't apply to public Bible teaching. Why is this so?

Answer:

It certainly is the case for our country and the present times, but it has always been so. The future of every country depends upon the "free course" it gives God's Word (**2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**). Christians should be praying, "that God would open to us a door for the word" (**Colossians 4:3**). Whom to release on the public streets is an ever-present decision.

Then he [Pilate] said to them the third time, 'Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.' But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. And he released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will (**Luke 23:22-25**).

With this decision, the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate represented politicians of his, and our, day.

1. He faced a clear, moral decision to make between good and evil.

Jesus Christ was a righteous man as evidenced by:

- a. Pilate's own examination and conclusion—he could "find no fault in Him" (**Matthew 27:24; Luke 23:14, 22; John 19:6**);
- b. Pilate's own wife's conscience when she said,
"Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him" (**Matthew 27:19**)
- c. Jesus' own testimony that the issue was about established "truth," and not whether the charge against Him was simply to be denied (**John 18:33-38**);
- d. The Jew's own admission that Jesus was to be condemned by their law, not Roman law (**John 18:28-32; 19:7**), though the charge at first was presented to Pilate as "guilty because He was charged," and not "guilty as charged." This made

Pilate "more afraid" (**John 19:8**) because someone was calling Jesus "Christ" (**Matthew 27:17**).

Barabbas was a convicted "terrorist," and guilty as charged. He was:

- a. "**Notorious**," a word meaning "marked in a bad sense" (**Matthew 27:16**). If there had been a "most wanted list," he would have been on it. He was the "Osama bin Laden" of his day, known to all for his criminal ways.
- b. **A leader of "rebellion,"** or insurrection (**Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19, 25**). Since "an evil man seeks only rebellion" (**Proverbs 17:11**), he was an evil man. Wisdom taught,

Do not associate with those given to change (**Proverbs 24:21**)

He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife (**Proverbs 28:25**).

An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression (**Proverbs 29:22**).

Barabbas was evil, proud, angry and given to change, and no particular "cause" was claimed as his "excuse" for his actions. [Hezbollah mutters something about an American-backed Israel invasion, Muslims mumble about Roman Catholic Crusades, and Communists constantly carp about American capitalism, but at their hearts, they are evil, proud, angry, and given to change, like Barabbas] The spirit of Barabbas guides all those today who engage in this practice!

- c. **A murderer** (**Mark 15:7**). Whether he directly murdered, sent others to murder, or created the violent climate where murder seemed justified, he was directly responsible for the deliberate taking of human lives. Does anyone notice that the leaders of insurrection seldom volunteer for their "suicide" missions? Why was Barabbas still alive, when no telling how many others had died for his "cause" and at their expense? Solomon wrote,

Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil (**Ecclesiastes 8:11**).

Truly, because "death row" has been made into a "protected life" sentence, then who is surprised that the slaughter rate climbs all over the world?

- d. **"A robber"** or plunderer (**John 18:40**). He stole from his victims showing total disdain, even for the hurting living. Robbers were crucified (**Matthew 27:38**), so why wasn't Barabbas?

Given the choice, whom would you have chosen to run free on your streets? Jesus Christ had never done any- thing wrong, and Barabbas had done nothing *but* wrong! The Jews' consciences must have been hurting, because Jesus' teaching and example challenged them to do good, but other Jews were hurting in their homes and lives because Barabbas had no conscience. We have the choice today, of electing only those public officials who will rid societies of those like Barabbas, who make life fearful and unsafe in any place!

2. He abdicated his personal morality for political "peace."

Bar (son) **abbas** (father) could have meant that he was simply called "his father's son." He could have been so rebellious that he mistreated his father and chased away his mother and thus caused shame and brought reproach to his family name (**Proverbs 19:26**); or a "scoffer" who did not listen to rebuke (**Proverbs 13:1**); or a "foolish man" who despised his mother (**Proverbs 15:20**). He clearly was "a foolish son" who was "grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him" (**Proverbs 17:25**). No one would have wanted to claim him as his son. In Moses' Law, a stubborn and rebellious son should have been put to death (**Deuteronomy 21:18-21**) — why had the Jews not already killed Barabbas?

Jesus, however, was the Son that God was pleased to present to the world. Jesus obeyed His heavenly Father:

- a. As a child of twelve (**Luke 2:41-49**);
- b. In baptism at age 30 (**Matthew 3:13-17**; **Luke 3:21-23**);
- c. Throughout His life (**John 6:38**);
- d. In His death (**Hebrews 9:11-15**; **10:5-10**; **Acts 2:23-24**). God twice directly spoke from Heaven to tell the world,

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"
(**Matthew 3:17**; **17:5**)

And once for all time He raised Jesus from the dead to declare Him His Son
(**Acts 13:28-34**; **Romans 1:4**).

- e. His miracles convinced even Pharisees (**John 3:2**; **9:13-16**; **20:30-31**);
- f. He forgave sins as only God should (**Mark 2:5-12**); and
- g. He "taught them as one having authority [over God's law! jtpII], and not as the scribes" (**Matthew 7:29**). None can disprove this claim. The Jews said Jesus was "the Son of God;" their issue was over whether or not the proof was from Jesus Himself.

Pilate:

- a. Was convinced of Jesus' innocence (**John 19:12**);
- b. Knew the wrong motive of the crowd (**Matthew 27:18**; **Mark 15:10**);
- c. Three times argued Jesus' innocence (**Luke 23:4, 14- 15, 22**);
- d. Tried to spare his own conscience (**Matthew 27:24**).

But once the compromise with the ungodly was made, there was no turning back! He came out of this with a new "friend" in Herod (**Luke 23:12**), but as an enemy of God!

3. His compromise left terrorism in the streets.

With Jesus rejected and taken off of the streets, Barabbas would live to kill another day, the Jews would cower in their homes for safety and Pilate would have more riots to police! Every politician who removes Jesus Christ from his/ her streets sides with terrorism. Every politician who is a "terror to good works" and not to evil works (**Romans 13:3-4**) will pay dearly, both in this life and the life to come.

4. Pilate's "conversion" is followed today!

Pilate believed in "water salvation" by declaring his innocence and using only water for his purification. People today follow his example by declaring their salvation before being baptized into Jesus' death, thus making their baptism only a washing with water and not His blood. Scripture, however, shows that in water baptism, a sinner unites with Jesus' death (**Romans 6:3-6**), hearts are "sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water" (**Hebrews 10:22**), and one calls "on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**). Pilate used the so-called "sinner's prayer" (to declare his own innocence) and then applied water to demonstrate this self-declared fact, but did not obey God's command to:

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**).

Those who, like Pilate, seek salvation by water without Jesus' blood have made void Bible baptism, and therefore are still in their sins!

Pontius Pilate may face God without Jesus Christ on Judgment Day, but we should not. No country or conscience can survive by taking Jesus away from it.

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This article is available in tract format on <http://johntpolkll.com>