

# Overwhelmed: by The Cross

## Matthew 27:1-57

March 25th, 2018

Reading this whole passage, what kind of emotions and images does this text bring up in you?

Often times, it's easy for us to only look at the kindness, goodness and grace of Jesus - and overlook subversive nature of his mission. Jesus didn't die because he was a nice guy...there is more going on. In your own words, how does Jesus find himself here?

Judas has some type of awakening about his actions. What is so troubling about his response? What does this reveal about what he believes about the nature of who Jesus is? Consider the parable of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15...how are these two responses so different?

Pilate lets the crowd chose to release either Barabbas or Jesus. Barabbas is guilty and deserves his punishment...but Jesus is completely innocent. How do you see the gospel message being played out? What does this reveal about you?

Just a few chapters before in Matthew 16 - Jesus says to his disciples, "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*" How do you understand what Jesus is saying here?

Often times we are quick to focus on the resurrection of Christ and avoid this painful part of Jesus' life. Why do you think that is? Do you think it's important for us to pause on his death and not move to quickly to his resurrection?

What kind of question does this passage bring up in you? What types of things do you find unsettling?

What is one thing that you needed to hear from this passage? How does that call you to take your next step with Christ?

