

Welcome to Grace

March 15, 2026

Happy Sunday!

Counterfeit Jesus

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Two Choices: The Real Jesus or a Counterfeit

- Pilate stood before the crowd with a choice between two men named Jesus.
- Jesus the Messiah was innocent, yet Barabbas was the one the crowd chose.
- A counterfeit can look real but does not carry the same truth or value.

Matthew 27:21

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered.

Where might you be tempted to settle for a version of Jesus that fits your expectations rather than the real Jesus revealed in Scripture?

The Crowd Chose the Wrong Savior

- The crowd chose a man who would fight for their freedom.
- They rejected the One who would die for their freedom.
- They wanted deliverance from Rome rather than deliverance from sin.

John 18:36

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

Do you ever expect Jesus to advance your personal or political hopes instead of trusting His kingdom and His way?

The Method of Jesus Is the Cross

- Jesus did not come with violence or political power.
- His way was surrender, sacrifice, and the cross.
- Following Jesus means aligning with both His message and His method.

1 Corinthians 1:23

"But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles."

Are you willing to embrace the way of Jesus even when it looks like sacrifice instead of victory?

Jesus Took the Place of the Counterfeit

- The guilty man was released while the innocent Son was condemned.
- In the same way, Jesus took the place of sinners so we could become children of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Have you received the gift of Jesus taking your place, or are you still trying to carry your own guilt?