**Taking the Place of Barabbas**

**15**Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. **16**And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+27&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-24146c" \o "See footnote c)] **17**Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”**18**For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

**19**While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.”

**20**But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. **21**The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

They said, “Barabbas!”

**22**Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

*They* all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!”

**23**Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?”

But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!”

**24**When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, **he took water and washed *his* hands** before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+27&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-24154d" \o "See footnote d)] You see *to it.*”

**25**And all the people answered and said, “His blood *be* on us and on our children.”

**26**Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.

**Water in Literature**

Water is almost always symbolic in literature and movies. Since water is a natural cleansing agent, it serves the same purpose in literature, as well. Typically, water is symbolically used for a variety of reasons. Here are a few:

* Washing away the sins
* Washing away the guilt
* Washing away the responsibility
* Washing away original sin (baptism)

**Things to look for:**

* Any situation that involves water…showers, baths, rivers, oceans, rain, washing hands