



Barabbas, Man of God?

Most of us have been introduced to Barabbas, the notorious leader of the Zealots in Jerusalem during that time leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. His life is referenced in eleven verses of the New Testament and then he disappears. However, he emerges as an unlikely hero on the pages of a work of historical fiction, my novel [A Life for Barabbas](#).

The novel details Barabbas' spiritual transformation from an unrepentant rebel to a strong Christian leader. The pattern of this man's faith journey mimics the critical points of our own faith development. He was saved from certain death by crucifixion. We are saved from the wages of sin and death through Christ's death on the Cross. He had an encounter with Christ on Calvary. We encountered Christ when we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior.

Barabbas struggled with "why did that man die in my place?" We have the same question. He has a difficult time understanding and accepting what he had heard and seen. His struggles were resolved through the Resurrection and the fellowship with the disciples. Even today, we have questions that seem illusive, yet, our faith calls us to trust and obey, and follow the nudgings of the Holy Spirit.

Very often our own faith journey starts with someone else's understanding of faith. For many it's the faith of our parents or significant others in our young lives. Something happens along the way and we come to the realization that the borrowed faith from others has become our personal faith. What we believe has become a real thing that impacts the practice of living. In the practice of our Christian faith we find support and encouragement from fellow believers.

Granted, most of our lives, our Christian walk, may not be as scary, or colorful, or heroic as detailed in the novel, but if we are honest with ourselves we do arrive at a point when we walk, as Jesus would have us walk, we emerge transformed. My definition of a Christian is pretty simple; that quality emerges for believers as grace through our efforts to imitate Christ.

Our lives, as Christians, are not fictional, they are real and as we travel, day by day, we encounter hills and valleys, smooth roads and rough ones, successes and failures, yet at the end of each day we know we are loved by God. Each day contains opportunities for us to practice the presence of God. Amen.

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This essay was the Meditation in Stan Escott's [Watchword](#) for November 16, 2021. The content of Watchwords is written from inspiration born of Scripture, devotional readings and reflection. Each post is meant to encourage and give you a sense of peace in these troubled times. To explore Watchwords or sign up for the mailings, visit bosworth30.com/watchwords/.