

“Resisting Rescue”

Accompanies the 4/10/22 Sermon

Resisting Rescue: Pilate and the Chief Priests

Jesus’ trial is a story of corruption, injustice, and inhumane abuse. It’s also a story of extravagant love and how Jesus came to rescue us from our sinfulness. Pilate and the religious rulers thought they were calling the shots, but they were only characters in the midst of God’s grand narrative of redemption.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **John 18:28-19:16**

1. What in today’s text do you find interesting, creates questions, or you find exciting?
2. How does the reading of this story make you feel?
3. The religious rulers brought Jesus to Pilate for trial. What were the charges they accused him of? What was their motivation and what consequence did they hope would fall upon this innocent man?
4. Pilate did not think that Jesus had committed any crime worthy of punishment by the Roman Empire. Yet, he still chose to carry out the sentence of death and torture. Why did he make this decision? How did he try to pass blame to others?
5. **Reading the Red Letters:** What does Jesus’ words tell you about Gods character, Jesus’ purpose, the world that we live in?

GETTING PRACTICAL

Pilate recognized that Jesus was innocent. Even though he knew Jesus should go free his fear led him to reject who Jesus was and crucified him in one of the most gruesome ways.

1. What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
2. Where is the Gospel in this passage or in this week's message?

The religious leaders and Pilate were all about self. They wanted to preserve their own positions, authority, and wealth. Jesus' presence and activity on this earth revealed that his motivation was a others centered.

3. Why do we tend to be so self-focused?
4. How does this creep into every area of our life (marriage, family, work, church)?
5. When you think of how Jesus was different from the other rulers of the day what comes to mind?

* **Don't miss the gospel message here.** Our discussion has been focused on Pilate and the religious leaders and what we can learn from them. This week is Palm Sunday and we remember that Jesus was being led to the cross for you and for me. Spend some time reflecting on that truth.