

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 11, 2004

Passage: John 18:28-38

Memory Passage: Matthew 6:33

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 18:28-33. *Where* does this incident take place? How does the location differ from the previous trial? (b) Why didn't the Jewish leaders go into the Praetorium? What was their concern? What does this tell us about their spiritual condition? (c) Why do you think the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to be crucified (Deuteronomy 21:23)? (d) Why was it important for our salvation that he be crucified (Galatians 3:10-13; John 3:14)? (e) The Greek indicates that Pilate asked Jesus, "Are *you* the King of the Jews?" What in Jesus' appearance before him would have prompted Pilate to ask Jesus this question in this manner (Isaiah 52:13-53:3)? (f) Read Isaiah 53:4-6. Spend time this morning praising God for what Jesus has done for you!

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 18:33-35. What were the accusations (Luke 23:2-3)? Which one concerned Pilate (John 18:33)? (b) Why don't the Jews have a formal accusation for Pilate? What kind of response do they give? Is this a typical response for people who are not dealing honestly? (c) How does Jesus' answer question in verse 34 confront Pilate? Compare this with Jesus' questioning of his own disciples in Matthew 16:13-15. What might this teach us about our presentation of the gospel to others? (d) What can you find out from history (or Bible dictionaries) about Pilate? What does Luke 13:1 tell us about his respect for Jewish traditions and his respect for people in general? (e) What may have prevented Pilate from treating Jesus with his usual coldness (Matthew 27:19)? (f) Pray that you might be able to speak boldly with others about who Jesus is.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 18:36. What does Jesus say about his kingdom? What does this mean for us today? (b) What are we praying when we pray "thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?" What are we asking for? (c) Consider Luke 11:20; 17:20-21; Colossians 1:13; Romans 14:17 – what do these tell us about his kingdom? (d) In John 18:36, what does Jesus say his disciples would do if his kingdom were of this world? Since it is not, what warning does his statement have concerning *our means and methods* today? (e) Read Matthew 6:33. What does this tell us should be the priority of our focus in this world? (f) Pray "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done" concerning all you will face today.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 18:37. Why did Jesus come into the world? How is "truth" an essential element of Christianity? Why do we believe that all the Bible teaches is true? What if it is not? (b) What has Jesus already said about truth (John 14:6; 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 17:17)? (c) How did Pilate respond to this statement by Jesus? How is his answer similar to his in verse 35 and the Jewish leaders in verse 30? How do people often respond when confronted by the truth? (d) What does John 1:14-18 tell us about truth and the coming of Jesus? (e) Praise God for the fact that the coming of Jesus brought *both truth and grace* for our lives.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read John 18:37-38. Who does Jesus say "hears his voice?" Compare this with John 10:26-27 and 8:47 – who are these people? (b) What skeptical question does Pilate raise? How is this same question often raised today? Give some examples. How can we respond to such skepticism about Jesus? (c) Why do people not come to the truth that Jesus reveals (John 3:19-21)? What promise does Jesus make regarding those who do come to him in John 6:37? (d) What was Pilate's conclusion about Jesus (John 18:38; 19:4; 19:6)? What final decision does he make about Jesus? What does this remind us about how people come to accept this truth (Matthew 16:17; Acts 16:13-14; 1 Cor. 2:14)? (e) Pray for someone who has not accepted the truth of Jesus' coming. Pray that God would open this person's heart to receive the wonderful truth of salvation through Christ alone!

What was the priority of Jesus' life and ministry? What is yours?

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Born to Die a King

“You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born ...”