

March 3rd, 2024 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 53)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Has there ever been a time in your life where you were treated unfairly? Where you were clearly in the right, or innocent, and you were treated as if you were in the wrong? What were the surrounding circumstances in this situation? What makes “unfair” situations so frustrating? How do you react when accused of something?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 15:1-15. In this passage, Jesus is called the title “King of the Jews” on three different occasions. In verse 2, Pilate asks Jesus the first time, “are you the King of the Jews.” Jesus does not answer him directly but says, “you have said so.” At the end of verse 5, Pilate is “amazed” by Jesus’ lack of answer.

Read John 18:36-38

Why was Jesus not concerned about answering Pilate’s questions the way we thought He could have? Why was Jesus not interested in getting into a political kingdom conversation? How was Jesus not fulfilling the expectations a lot of people had for Him?

Question 2: Read Mark 15:6-11. Pilate was unable to find any basis for a charge towards Jesus. Yet, Pilate releases Barabbas and eventually sentences Jesus to death. This is a picture of the term substitutionary atonement. Jesus suffers as a substitute in the place of and on behalf of someone who is guilty. This is a picture of the Gospel.

Read Colossians 1:20-21, Romans 3:24-26, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Ephesians 2:12, Galatians 3:13

How do these verses help you understand substitutionary atonement? In what ways can you apply this theological truth to your life this week? How does Jesus’ substitutionary atonement allow you to live more freely this week?

Question 3: Read Romans 6:17-18, 22-23. The idea of having our sin atoned for through the cross of Jesus leads to the principle of being set free from the slavery of sin. **Verse 18** says the phrase, “slaves of righteousness.” What does this phrase mean? What does it look like in the life of a Christ-follower? In **verse 22**, what does being a slave to God produce? What fruit in your life is there currently being produced?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?