

LIFEGROUP NOTES: JOHN 18:28 – 19:16

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Please read John 18:28 – 19:16

For discussion:

1. What are your first thoughts on reading this story? How do you react? Why?
2. How does John emphasise Pilate's verdict on Jesus? Note especially 18:38; 19:4,6. Why is it so important that this point is made?
3. How does Jesus' trial before Pilate in fact put Pilate on trial? And us too? What is exposed about our hearts in this story? Compare 18:25-26. Confess ways in which you too have opted to save yourself (your comfort and convenience) at cost to Christ – the most recent rather than ancient history! How can we comfort and strengthen one another at this point with the gospel?
4. While evil hands are clearly at work in these events, how does John show us that God is at work too? See 18:32; 19:11. Look at how the apostles put this together in their preaching – Acts 2:23 ... and in their praying ... Acts 4:27-28. How might this give us confidence in the face of evil?
5. Jesus' enemies were working to save themselves by destroying Him – but at the same time, Jesus was working to save His enemies – see Jn 3:16-17; 10:11. Here is a God who simultaneously uncovers our sin and guilt AND provides us with the Saviour we need – at the greatest cost to Himself. How do you react to this?

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all!*

In Conclusion:

- Spend time in worship and praise for such a Saviour. Pray for those you know who are still blind to His love.

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