

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: March 4th 2018

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Jesus Meets Pilate

Introduction: In this passage Pilate, the local Governor on behalf of the might Roman Empire, comes face to face with Jesus, the King of God's kingdom. What can we learn from Jesus about our own encounters with others that we meet on our frontline. The discussion outline follows the three points from the talk.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Mark 15:1-15

Reflect 1: Identity

- Jesus clearly knew who he was (Mark 14:61,62). What does the Bible tell us about our identity as people possessed by the Spirit of Jesus? Look up these passages: 1 John 3:1; Hebrews 2:11; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20a.
Discuss:
 - Which description do people in the group most identify with?
 - How easy is it to maintain a sense of our Christian identity in our Monday-Saturday lives? What threatens our sense of identity?
 - Can anyone give an example of how their awareness of their Christian identity has in some way shaped the way they have behaved in their everyday life?

Reflect 2: Vocation

- Jesus clearly knew what his position as King of God's kingdom expected of him. What does John 18:36 tell us about Jesus' understanding of his calling?
- Our vocation is a sense of God's voice calling us towards some particular activity or occupation. Our *primary* calling is to be a disciple of Jesus and citizen of his kingdom: that is a shared calling of every Christian. Our *secondary* calling is unique to us and is our way of serving God and others, reflecting who God has made us to be.
 - What are the various secondary callings of people in your group?
 - How does the primary calling to be a disciple of Jesus and citizen of his Kingdom affect their daily lives? What are the challenges and possibilities that are opened up?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

Reflect 3: Confidence

- Jesus gave himself to Pilate and the crowd, without fighting back, justifying himself or trying to defend himself. The reason he could do this was because he had absolute confidence that this was God's plan (John 19:11). He trusted God that his calling here was to be faithful and leave the rest to his Father.
 - Is this always the way that Christians' should behave (is there ever a time to fight back or defend ourselves? What Bible passages lend support to your view?).
 - Are there people in the group who are facing issues where they have to step back, and trust God? Pray for them.

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO** make room for the 'And Finally' questions!

www.thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk