



FELLOWSHIP GROUP QUESTIONS

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mark 15:1-15

A King or a Criminal

1. How did this sermon convict, encourage, or challenge you?
2. Test Case: Suppose a fellow student in your class or co-worker overheard you tell a friend that would like to see them on church on Sunday. This conversation prompted them to ask you questions they had been wrestling over for quite some time, but had never felt confident in answering. Using Colossians 1:12-21, how would you go about answering the following questions: 1) *Who am I?* 2) *Why am I here?* 3) *What is wrong with the world?* 4) *How can what is wrong be made right?*
3. Note how Jesus suffered (Isaiah 53). Many times when we suffer or go through trials in life, we do so with hard hearts and attitudes that say, "I don't deserve this." What heart issues are at play here and how should we endure trials? Lastly, why is the gospel at stake in how we suffer and experience trials (1 Peter 1:3-9, 4:12-19)?
4. Despite Pilate's belief that Jesus was innocent he still condemned him to the worst criminal's death imaginable. Not only this, but the very people to whom Jesus had ministered to were now crying out that he be crucified. This passage shows us man's depravity in stunning ways. What practical ways can we wage war against the desires of our flesh that are eager to please man and which are easily influenced by man? What issues of the heart must we be on guard against?
5. It can be easy to look at Pilate, the religious leaders, and Jewish crowd yelling, "Crucify him!," and think that they are nothing like us. Our pride doesn't want us to think that the two-second evil thought that crossed our mind when our roommate or spouse did something that we didn't appreciate could possibly be as bad as what they did. What does this tell us about our view of sin? What do you think about someone who says he doesn't find a seething hatred over the "small" sins in his life? How do we rationalize the "small" sins in our lives and why is this dangerous?