DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

Our text is Mark 15:1-20, where we see the suffering of Jesus continue in three scenes:

- 1. **Scene One** (verses 1-5): Jesus' accusers take him before Pilate, who interrogates him.
- 2. **Scene Two** (verses 6-15): Pilate can see that Jesus is innocent and that it was out of envy that the Jewish leaders accused him. Pilate then interacts with the crowd, who demand two things:
 - a. that Pilate release the criminal Barabbas rather than Jesus.
 - b. that Pilate order that Jesus be crucified.
- 3. **Scene Three** (verses 16-20): Before they take Jesus out to crucify him, the Roman soldiers ridicule and degrade him.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. What do the chief priests do before they take Jesus to Pilate?
- 2. Mark telescopes his account of the hearing before Pilate:
 - What two questions does Pilate ask Jesus?
 - What is Pilate's reaction to Jesus?
- 3. Who prompts the crowd to ask for Barabbas instead of Jesus?
- 4. What motivates Pilate to order that Jesus be crucified?
- 5. What does Pilate order happen to Jesus before he is crucified?
- 6. Who is involved in the mocking of Jesus before his crucifixion?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

Based on Pilate's reaction to the Jewish leaders, what accusation do you think the leaders made about Jesus before Pilate? What truth is there in their accusation?

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SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

Here we begin to consider how we must **respond** to what God has said in His Word.

- 1. Because Jesus died in the place of sinners, everyone who has trusted Christ knows that Jesus' suffering that day has a personal significance. It was our punishment he bore, so in a sense we all played a role in the agonies and humiliation he endured that day. How can you see the role you played in Christ's sufferings in each of the players?
 - **The Jewish leaders**, who falsely accused Jesus: When have you spoken about Jesus in a way that aligned with popular culture but was actually a distortion of who he really is?
 - **Pilate**, who was weak as a leader and gave Jesus over to unjust suffering just to appease the crowd: When have you found yourself intimidated by those around you so that you went along with something that brought dishonor on the name of Jesus?
 - **The soldiers**, who amused themselves at Jesus' expense: When have you been tempted to use Christ's name in vain or in some other way treat him in a light and disrespectful way?
- 2. One man didn't contribute directly to Jesus' suffering, except in that he benefited from it. This week's text features Barabbas, the guilty man who was set free while the innocent Jesus was made to suffer. No one would want to identify with a murderous thug, and yet this is one thing we clearly have in common with Barabbas: he was set free while Christ suffered. How do you "play a role" in this story in the person of Barabbas? How are you like Barabbas?

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