

the gospel of

JOHN

all intents and purposes

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 8: OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Read the Text

John 18:12-14; 19-24

12 So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews[a] arrested Jesus and bound him. 13 First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people...

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 20 Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. 21 Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." 22 When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" 24 Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Main Point

This passage marks the beginning of the series of false and unjust trials against Jesus. Jesus is accused, tossed around from

one authority figure to another, and is even physically hit. And yet we see Him respond with calmness and confidence. ***Throughout these false trials, we see Jesus' love for us and His mercy towards stubborn sinners.*** He knows what He needs to do to save us from our sins, and He humbly and willingly goes through the most unjust trial that ever existed in order to see through God's plan of redemption.

In verse 22, we see things escalate as Jesus endures a strike from an officer. This is just a taste of the physical torture Jesus is about to endure. Through His absorption of this physical hit, ***we are reminded of Jesus' love for us in His steadfast suffering.*** He doesn't rebuke, He doesn't hit back. He takes the strike knowing that it's one step closer to His atoning sacrifice on the cross. The ironic thing about this though, is that Jesus is not a victim. He's not a helpless underdog of these sham trials and mistreatment. Rather, He is in total control and knows exactly what is to come. Through this courageous submission to God's plan, ***we see His love for us in the sovereign story of God.*** Jesus knows every sin, lie, distortion, and wrongdoing that His accusers, His disciples, you and me would commit, and still chooses to walk out God's redemption story.

Reflect Together

1. ***Who is God?*** Consider the humility, courage, and selfless love that led Jesus to sustain these false accusations so that God's redemption story could be carried out. How does that impact you? What do you think of it? Are there parts of it that are difficult for you to believe and accept?
2. ***What has He done?*** Jesus shows His loving mercy in this passage. How has He shown loving mercy to you in your life?
3. ***Who are you?*** When sinned against, how do you typically respond? Where could you grow in Jesus' example of serving God's greater purpose and prioritizing abiding in Him over protecting your own interests?

4. ***What are you to do?*** Pastor Justin quoted Murray M'Cheyne: "for every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ." Where do you want to live this out? It could relate to your response to hardship, shame you carry over your own sin, sin that has been committed against you, etc. Where do you need to remind yourself of Jesus' love and care for you?

Abide Together

Pray together as an MC about what came up during discussion. Pray that you would grow to believe and embrace Jesus' love for you and in turn show that love towards others.

Mission Together

Who in your life needs to hear this message of God's merciful love? What's a step you could take in helping them hear that message? Easter is just a few weeks away! It can be as simple as an invitation to attend the Easter gathering at Doxa!