

the gospel of

JOHN

all intents and purposes

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 11: WHEN PRIDE GETS THE BEST OF US

Read the Text

John 19:1-16

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews^[a] answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." ¹² From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend."

Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic^[b] Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour.^[c] He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Main Point

After an unjust trial, we now see Jesus handed over for crucifixion. As Christians who know the end of the story, it’s hard and even painful to fathom this mockery and torture of our King. The people who crucified Jesus didn’t believe and didn’t understand His true Kingship. And although we know He is King, we are all guilty of misunderstanding Jesus’ true Kingship to some extent. For example, ***many of us have a God in our heads that we are absolutely willing to submit to as King; but that God suspiciously agrees with everything we believe about the world.*** When this happens, we have less of a King, and more of a clone. And when the King contradicts us, we crucify Him in our own way by succumbing to our own wants and desires instead of to His. So we need to ask ourselves: whose rules do we play by? Pilate plays by the rules of the Roman government and the religious leaders play by their own extra-Biblical rules. We can take this as a warning to be careful about who we are truly following. ***God crafts the law for our flourishing, and when we play by our own rules instead of His, they are often to our own confusion and destruction, not our joy, peace and flourishing.*** None of us are immune from taking the law and bending it out of context to fit our desires and preferences. ***We need to be humble and examine our motivations.*** We may be chasing after power, fear of change, comfort, or any number of things. But the good news is that when we thoughtfully consider

our true motivations, no matter how broken and sinful they are, Jesus' willing submission on the cross covers us and we are made clean.

Reflect Together

1. **Who is God?** This is a powerful scene where the flogging and mocking of Jesus begins. How does it impact you? What does it make you feel and get in touch with about how God chose to save you?
2. **What has He done?:** Jesus' willingness to take on all our sin and shame on the cross releases us from the condemnation we would otherwise have for our corrupt motivations. How has God saved you in specific ways? When you think of your motivations over your life, how has He changed and redeemed them?
3. **Who are you?:** What are some ways that you sometimes turn your King into a clone? Are there specific areas in your life that may be more aligned with the world than with what God wants for you?
4. **What are you to do?:** What are some steps you'd like to take to align your life more with God's Kingship and truth? Are there specific distortions you have about who God is and His will for your life? How can you invite the Spirit, God's word, and His people in to help you along the way?

Abide Together

Pray together as an MC about what came up during discussion. Pray that you would grow in submitting to God as your true King.

Mission Together

Who in your life needs to hear the good news about Jesus willingly suffering through the crucifixion to save you? Consider inviting them to Good Friday and Easter this week!