**SMALL GROUP REFLECTION: 15 February 2015**

**TEXT**

John 19 vs 16b – 24 – The crucifixion of the King

**OVERVIEW**

The Place of Crucifixion

* Outside the City walls
* Speaks of Jesus being an outcast. A misfit. Not wanted.
* A contrast with the triumphal entry
* Within the City walls part of the heartbeat of the Jewish Nation, belonging

The People he was crucified with

* In the middle of two common criminals
* Even in death Jesus was associated with those on the margins of society
* His arms spread out on the cross are also arms of welcome into his kingdom

The Clothes

* Soldiers doing what they always did, earning some extra money
* The undergarment –
  + Some people think it symbolises priesthood
  + Other the unity of believers
  + But it could just be a piece of detail to authenticate the account

The sign

* Written in 3 languages so that all could read it
* In death Jesus was being proclaimed as king to the known world
* Pilate shows some backbone

The cross

* A common means of death, agonising
* Probably carried the cross-beam rather than the whole thing

**REFLECTION**

Matthew 16 vs 24/25 Jesus said

*“If anyone would come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”*

Really? Can we do this? Thinking back to John what does this mean:

**Like Jesus we are mis-fits in this world.**

* How do you feel being called a misfit?
* How do we know we are misfits?
* What personal examples do you have that support being a misfit?
* If we are misfits what does this mean as we try to reach others for Jesus?

**Like Jesus we identify with the outcasts.**

* Who are on the margins of our society?
* How do we identify with them?
* What personal example have you got of this?
* What about everyone else?

**The undergarment was precious**

* How precious to you is your relationship with Jesus?
* Just as the undergarment was too precious to be cut up so our relationship with Jesus is too precious to be applied to only part of our life – are there areas of your life where Jesus is not truly Lord?
* How do you cultivate and grow this precious relationship?

**Just as Jesus had a sign above his head we carry signs with us**

* What sort of signs to we show the world as Christians?
* How do they speak of Jesus and his precious gift?
* How could our ‘signs’ be more meaningful?
* Share experiences where you have shared the love of God with others.

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