

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 8/2/15

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Who Are You Jesus?

Introduction:

This returns to our John's Gospel series. In the passage Pilate asks the fundamental question of faith: 'where are you from Jesus?'. Is Jesus just another rebel for Pilate to dispose of - or could he be the Son of God (v7), or even a king to rival Caesar?

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

In the Gospels Jesus makes frequent claims to be a king ushering in God's Kingdom. This audacious claim challenges both the Jewish rulers, who fear loss of control of their religious empire, and Pilate, who fears Caesar's wrath if he is seen to be tolerating a new king in Caesar's empire. Thus the choice that faces every person is presented to us through the dilemma facing Pilate and Caiphas: what to do with Jesus and his claims to be, not just Israel's, but the whole world's rightful king.

Read: John 19: 8-16

Reflect:

- What did you find encouraging from listening to this talk?
- What has been the thought that has remained?
- Is there a particular verse or phrase from the reading that speaks to you?
- Share about the time when you first acknowledged Jesus as king. What challenges did it present to you?
- Share what it means for you that Jesus is king in your everyday life.
- What other 'kingdoms' try to own our allegiance in our culture? What makes them attractive and what are the challenges of putting Jesus' kingdom first? (*encourage people to share real-life examples, not just theoretical generalisations*).
- How do you react to this quote from AW Tozer that was read in the talk:
"to accept Christ is all-inclusive (it includes all that I am, leaving no part of my being or existence outside the realm of Christ's authority, and it is all-exclusive (the Lord becomes to him not one of many rival interests, but the one exclusive attraction forever. He orbits around Christ as the earth around the sun, drawing all his light and life and warmth from him alone)."
- The rejected king Jesus is enthroned on his cross, and there dismantles the authority of the powers that had crucified him (Colossians 2:14,15). How does the knowledge that God's kingdom comes through a cross affect what it means to live in his kingdom today?

Respond:

Love for God:

What are the costs of loving king Jesus in a world marked by the clash of the kingdoms?

Love for one another:

Do you know anyone at the moment who is facing a hard decision and perhaps struggling to accept Jesus' kingship? How could you as a group support them?

Love for Neighbour & World:

Sadly, many of our brother and sister Christians are being treated like Jesus today. They are being persecuted, rejected and even executed for refusing to bow to the kingdoms of this world. Could you or your group pray, give or write to them, through organisations like Open Doors, Barnabas Fund, and Christian Solidarity (or some of our church Mission Partners, like Elam)?

And finally:

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?