

## Home Group study: week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Darkness Before the Dawn

#### Part 3 – The Trials

Have you ever had a run in with somebody in authority (like the police)? Describe the situation and what happened.

How did you feel throughout the process? (don't share if too traumatic)

**Read: John 19 1-16**

#### Discovery

As we read the first half of this chapter, we can form an impression about those involved.

What do we learn about:

- a) The Roman soldiers
- b) Pontius Pilate
- c) The High Priests
- d) Jesus

Why did the High Priests hate Jesus so much? Why was Pontius Pilate so keen to save Jesus?

#### Understanding

In this section we consider some of the character traits of those involved in this scenario and how they relate to us:

**High Priests:** Think of a time when you mentally accused somebody of something (be careful how you share the details of this). How much was your accusation based on:

- a) Not liking them very much?
- b) They had done something previously to hurt you?
- c) Feeling threatened by them in some way?
- d) Your accusation against them being a particular pet hate of yours?

What sort of questions should we be asking ourselves before we make mental accusations against others?

One Christian leader suggested we both prayed and asked the question – 'help me to understand' before we jumped to conclusions. Do you find this helpful?

**High Priests 2:** The high priests showed outrageous hypocrisy in pretending to respect the authority of Caesar when in fact, like all patriotic Jews, they loathed it. Can you remember the last time you said something which was the exact opposite of how you really felt?

In what key areas as Christians should we be especially careful regarding hypocrisy?

Non-Christians level the accusation of hypocrisy against Christians on a fairly regular basis. Why is this? Is it justified?

**Pontius Pilate:** Pontius Pilate knew what was right and he also knew what was easy.

Can you remember the last time you sacrificed your principles for an easy life?

In some areas of the Christian life compromise is not just necessary but important. Can you remember a recent situation where it was right to compromise? What were the key factors governing this decision?

**Jesus:** Jesus showed tremendous perseverance in enduring the ridiculous accusations of men in order to complete his mission and go to the cross. In what areas do you find yourself struggling with perseverance at the present time? How does the example of Jesus help you?

In his sermon Malcolm highlighted the fact that adverse events can cause Christians to give up on their faith. How do we guard ourselves against this?

### **Application**

Pray for one another in any of these areas:

- Accusation
- Hypocrisy
- Compromise and/or Perseverance.

Pray that we will become more like Christ, especially as we endure various types of hardship.

One of Malcolm's five countdown points was about 'you and Jesus'. Pray for one another that during this time of COVID our relationship with Jesus will grow deeper and deeper.