

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 31, 2010

(set aside 20-30 minutes to complete the “Getting Started” part of this Homework before meeting with your Growth Group)

Sunday’s Message by Pastor Dane:

“The Road to the Cross”

John 18:1-40

Getting Started (20-30 minutes)

- 1.) Read John 18:1-40
(*Last week we focused on vs1-27. This week we’ll focus on vs28-40.*)
- 2.) Did anything in vs1-27 strike you that you missed last week?
- 3.) When we piece together the four different gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), it seems clear that Jesus was subjected to 6 different hearings and trials between the time he was arrested and the time he was condemned to die. Read the verses below and write down a few details or reflections about each hearing/trial.
 - a. #1: before Annas (John 18:12-13 & 19-24)
 - b. #2: before Caiphas (Matt. 26:57-68 & Mark 14:65)
 - c. #3: before the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71)
 - d. #4: before Pilate (Luke 23:1-5 & John 18:28-38)
 - e. #5: before Herod (Luke 23:6-12)
 - f. #6: before Pilate (Luke 23:13-25)
 - g. Pastor Dane believes that “Each drop of blood, each bruise, each wound adds to the brilliance of the display of God’s *great love* for you and me...and God’s *great kindness* and *goodness* and *compassion* and *mercy* and *grace*.” Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

- 4.) Reflect on the sad irony of the Jewish leaders' concern with "ceremonial uncleanness" in John 18:28 when held side-by-side with what they shouted later that morning according to Matthew 27:25?
- 5.) Pilate's question in John 18:38 is a crucial question that every 21st Century Christian should be equipped to answer?
 - a. See John 14:6 What is truth?
 - b. See John 16:13 What is truth?
 - c. See John 8:31-36 What is truth?
 - d. See Ephesians 6:14 What is truth?
 - e. See 1 Timothy 3:15 What is truth?

Digging Deeper (optional. Additional 20 min.)

When the Jewish leaders and soldiers came to arrest Jesus, he asked them, "Who is it you want?" (v4). They responded, "*Jesus of Nazareth.*" But at the end of the chapter, Pilate offered them Jesus, but they refused him: "*No, not him! Give us Barabbas!*" Write a short gospel presentation (1-2 paragraphs) centered around the question: "Do you want Jesus or not?"