

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 10, 2009

Passage: Luke 23:1-25

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 2:20-21

Sunday School Question: *From your study this week, what is one thing that God spoke to you that convicted or encouraged you?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 23:1-5.** *Research:* Who is Pilate and what does he do (Luke 3:1)? What are his responsibilities in relation to the Jews? What incidents have happened between him and the Jews previous to this passage (Luke 13:1)?
- (b) What three accusations are brought against Jesus? Are any of these true? Why or why not?
- (c) Why do you think that Pilate only addresses the last accusation? How are the Jews attempting to persuade Pilate that Jesus is a menace?
- (d) *Think about it:* Have you ever been accused of things that you did not do? How about in your relationships with others, have you ever been accused of acting a certain way or treating someone a certain way when you had no intention of doing so? What would be an example?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 23:1-5. Talk about who Pilate was and what his role in Israel looked like. What accusations are brought against Jesus? Have you ever been falsely accused? Do you think Jesus understands what it is like to be falsely accused before others? Thank Jesus for being able to identify with your own suffering in false accusations and ask Him for strength and forgiveness during those times.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 23:6-12.** *Research:* Who is Herod (a hint: This is Herod Antipas, not Herod the Great)? What does he do? What race is he? What do the Jewish leaders think of him? What does Matthew 14:1-12 tell about him?
- (b) Why did Herod want to see Jesus? What did Jesus say about those who looked for a sign (Luke 11:29-32)? Did Herod take serious the accusation of the Jews?
- (c) *Think about it:* Jesus condemns the seeking of a sign and here we have Herod wanting to see Jesus so he could see a sign and be entertained. Do you think Herod would have really believed if he saw a sign? When thinking about sharing our faith or witnessing to others, do you ever think someone with a better story (more miraculous story) would bring more people to Christ? What is it that truly draws men to Christ (John 6:44)? How does this free us to share the gospel to anyone?
- (d) *Family:* Read Luke 23:6-12. Talk about who Herod was. Who was his family and what did he do? What did Jesus say about those who look for a sign? Does the miraculous ever cause someone to believe? What is it that draws men to Christ? Is there anyone that you need to be faithful in sharing your faith with? Thank God that it is not up to you or miracles but is in His hands.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 23:13-16.** This passage has the second time that Jesus is declared innocent and there will be a third. What is Luke trying to convey to the reader (remember who the book is written to)?
- (b) Why is Jesus' innocence important (1Peter 2:19-24; Hebrews 7:26-27)? How did Jesus react in the midst of all the suffering?
- (c) *Think about it:* Can you think of some modern day examples of people suffering on purpose innocently? Can you think of how you have suffered while being innocent? How did you react? What is powerful about silently suffering for something or someone else?
- (d) *Family:* Read Luke 23:13-16. Talk about Jesus suffering. Why did He suffer? How does Christ model the way we are to react to suffering? What is powerful about suffering innocently for something else? Pray that God would give you the faith to trust in Him in the midst of suffering.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 23:17-22.** Why is verse 17 missing from your text? Why might this have been added later? Does it change the meaning of the text?
- (b) Who is this Barabbas? How is he described in the other gospels? Read Matthew 27:15-23. Who is it that brings up the release of Barabbas and why? Compare what Barabbas had been convicted for and what Jesus was being accused of.

(c) *Think about it:* What would bring a person to such a hate that they would be willing to see a murderer go free so that their competition might die? How is Barabbas' release a picture of what has happened to us at salvation?

(d) *Family:* Read Luke 23:17-22. Talk about who Barabbas is. What had he been arrested for? What does it show that the Pharisees were willing to have him released instead of Jesus? How does Barabbas represent all sinners and what Christ has done for us? Thank Jesus for taking our place and suffering on our behalf so that we might inherit eternal life.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 23:23-25.** Essentially, what is it that causes Jesus to be condemned by Pilate? What does this say about the power that social pressure can play on anybody?

(b) *Think about it:* Have you ever been in a position where social pressure has caused you to make a decision that went against your beliefs? What was it? What does the scripture say about the company that we keep (1 Cor. 15:33; Psalm 1)? Is there such a thing as a neutral influence?

(c) *Something to do:* Who is it that is influencing you? Who do you spend consistent time with? Are they spurring you on toward God or leading you toward apathy or worse sin? Godliness does not just happen and it doesn't happen in a vacuum. It takes intentionality and others. Talk to your friends about how you could spur one another on in your relationship with God.

(d) *Family:* Read Luke 23:23-25. What was it that finally forced Pilate to give in? What does this say about the power of social pressure? How have you experienced this? What could you do to keep yourself from being like Pilate in this situation? Pray that God would give you the strength to resist the temptation to give into peer pressure or social pressure and to do what is right.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What has stuck out this week for you? Do you suffer with the same attitude Christ suffered with? Are you willing to suffer in order to show the graciousness of Christ? What action do you need to take in light of this week's lessons.

DATE: May 10, 2009

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Suffering Like Jesus
"I find no guilt in this man..."