

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 19, 2017

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the eternal King of kings and the source of all truth who inaugurated his everlasting kingdom by his incarnation, and who saves sinners by his atoning death on the cross and resurrection from the grave.

This Week's Text: John 18:28-40

"The Kingdom of God in its essence is the reign of God, the personal relationship between the Sovereign God and the individual. Thus there is no point in asking whether the kingdom is present or future, it is both. The future restoration is no longer a flickering hope light years away; it has become available in the present. Not to its end, but to its progression toward its finality." **Bruce Metzger**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- For what offense did the religious leaders eventually convict Jesus? Where did the religious leaders next bring Jesus and why?
- Why didn't the religious leaders want to enter the governor's headquarters? What are the differences between human-centered religion and the gospel? Do you have a tendency toward self-righteous, rule-keeping? How does the gospel (the truth about our sin and God's grace) free us from hypocritical religion?
- John and the other gospel writers state that Jesus and his disciples ate the Passover meal on Thursday night, yet the religious leaders are concerned about eating the Passover meal on Friday. How do we account for the apparent contradiction regarding the timing of the Passover? Reference Luke 22:1, Leviticus 23:4-6, Numbers 28:16-17, and Deuteronomy 16:1-8.
- Although they took capital punishment into their hands at other times (reference Acts 7:58-60), why were the religious leaders afraid to execute Jesus themselves? Do you struggle with fearing men rather than fearing (honoring, revering) God?
- Read verse 32. Discuss how God used the malicious intentions of the Jewish religious leaders to accomplish his eternal, redemptive will. Reference John 12:32, Matthew 20:18-19, Psalm 22:17, Deuteronomy 21:22-23. Does it encourage you to know that God is sovereign and nothing will keep him from accomplishing his will (including your eternal security)?

- While talking with Pilate, what type of king does Jesus claim to be? Discuss how the kingdom of God is both a present reality and a future hope.
- Do you identify as a citizen of this world or as a citizen of the Kingdom of God? How does the reality of being a son or daughter of the eternal King of kings and Lord of lords impact how you live in this world?
- What does Jesus claim is his purpose for coming into the world? Reference verse 37. What is truth as defined by Scripture? Reference John 1:14; 14:6; 16:13; 17:17. Share some ways that we can witness to the truth of the gospel in our relativistic, postmodern culture.
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?