

Week 30
April 12, 2009

The King and His Court

Matthew 26:29, 26:53, 26:64, 27:11, 29, 28, 45, 51, 28:6, 28:18

1. READ Matthew 26:26-30.
2. Why does Jesus make this comment about drinking with his disciples in heaven?
3. How do you feel about the prospect of dining with Jesus in heaven? Anything you hope will be on the menu?
4. READ Matthew 26:47-56.
5. Why doesn't Jesus call in the angels? Can you imagine a different or better way for Jesus to save the world than by dying?

6. READ Matthew 26:63-68 and 27: 11, along with John 18:36-37.

7. How do you feel about the high priest? What was he afraid of?

8. How do you feel about Pontius Pilate? Frustrated? Sympathetic? Something else?

9. What is Jesus trying to communicate to Pilate in John's gospel?

10. READ Matthew 27:27-31.

11. The soldiers think they have so much power over Jesus. They're so glib and cruel. Why do people love power over others so much? Why do people love to pull down icons?

11. The earth trembles in 27:51. Does anyone else other than the centurion realize the significance, or do they explain away the coincidence? Have you had any “coincidences” in your life that, finally, you could no longer explain away? “God was saying something in those moments!”

12. READ Matthew 28:1-10.

13. Why did Jesus have to rise from the dead? Why is this important to us? (Try to use words that aren't recitations of Christian jargon. How would you explain this to a curious friend or neighbor with no background in Christianity?)

For the hardcore group:

READ Matthew 28: 16-20.

*Jesus has “all authority in heaven and on earth.” Who do you tend to give authority to in your life? Does that rendering of authority **to another** minimize the authority of Jesus in your life? If so, how so? If not, why not? If the answer is “I give authority to myself,”*

why are you so trusting of yourself? Have you earned this? Or do you simply prefer control whether or not you're adept at wielding it?