

Small Group Study Notes

Mark 15:1-20

1. In the Apostles' Creed we declare that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate". Before the hour of the cross there was this period of suffering.
 - a. List the ways Jesus suffered during this period.
 - b. Was this period of suffering meaningless and if not why not?
 - c. What encouragement can you draw from Jesus' suffering when you deal with your own suffering?
2. Based on what we see of him here, what sort of a man was Pilate?
3. Describe his dilemma. Describe a similar dilemma in your own experience.
4. The crowd would have known that Jesus was innocent so why did they want him crucified?
5. What do you think lay behind the motivation of the soldiers to mock Jesus?
6. A couple of months later Peter tells the crowd that they were responsible for the crucifixion of the Messiah (Acts 2:36). Read the story and note their reaction (Acts 2:37). Note the different reaction of the Sanhedrin when Peter confronted them with the same message (Acts 5:28). Why the different responses?
7. It has been said the Barabbas incident is the gospel story in a nutshell. Spell out the main components of the incident.