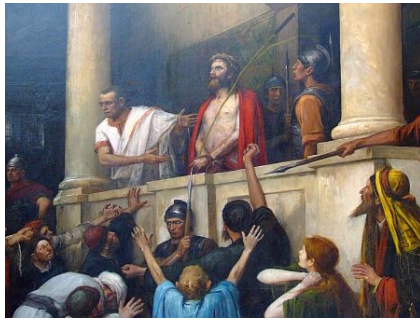


# Small Group Discussion

**ONE  
HELL  
OF A  
DAY**

**Week #5**

## ***A World at War with God***



**READ** John 18:29-19:16

**Discussion Starter:** I (Tim Weidlich) lived in Chicago in my High School years. I went to a Chicago Black Hawks hockey game with my Youth Group of 30+ kids. I never watched hockey, never played it, it seemed like a long game that I didn't have patience to watch. However, when I went to the game I got caught up in the crowd energy and excitement. The game started and of course a good fight broke out (supplemented periodically by the hockey game!), and I got involved in cheering, yelling at the other team, high-fiving other fans. How did I move from a dis-interested attendee to a fan?

Have you ever been caught-up in the emotion of an event, only to come out later wondering what happened? A party where you had a little too much to drink and said or did some things that didn't seem normal for you? Discuss some illustrations of this that come up. *What about blogs that attack people which you would not normally do face-to-face? Demonstrations that you have attended that get worked up more than planned.*

**WATCH - Optional - Adam Hamilton DVD "24 Hours That Changed the World" Session #4 (about 9 minutes)**

**READ** Mark 1:1-15

Rather than focus on Jesus' suffering as most treatments of this passage do, we will focus on our attitude toward God, His Son Jesus, and His Word to us, that is demonstrated in the four responses to Christ.

**PILATE - Personal Peace & Protection**

**Rather than focusing on the religious leaders' charge of Jesus' blasphemy, Pilate addresses His claim to be the King of the Jews, a potential threat to Roman rule. Does Pilate seem to have any vendetta against Christ? Pilate doesn't, in fact, he wants to free Jesus because he cannot find a crime worthy of prosecuting.**

**What questions does Pilate ask....**

# Small Group Discussion

**Jesus?** 15:2 Are You the King of the Jews? 15:4 Do You not answer? See how many charges they bring against You?

**Crowd?** 15:9 Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews? Note that this was a directed question, trying to move the crowd in Jesus' favor!

15:12 What shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?

15:14 Why, what evil has He done?

**Based on these questions, what is Pilate's personal verdict on Christ? Guilty or innocent? What evil has He done implies that Pilate can't find a charge against Jesus.**

**Why, then, doesn't Pilate let Jesus go?** *The crowd's threat to peace and to his position.*

**Does Christ threaten your peace and position sometimes? How?**

**When does the crowd pull you away from Christ? What kind of crowd opportunities can help you stay close to Christ?**

**HEROD – Curious but indifferent** (Key Word: "Whatever")

**READ** Luke 23:6-12

**Why was Herod interested in seeing Jesus? (23:8)**

**23:9 says that Herod tried to get something out of Jesus with no success. Why do you think Jesus refused to respond to Herod's curiosity?**

**What was Herod's response to Jesus? (23:11)**

Vern said that Herod was focused on the sensual, wealth, power, leisure and was not about thinking deeply about his soul. **When does that happen to you, what issues develop a callous and surface response to Jesus?** *Busy schedules, entertainment, surface relationships, pursuit of stuff....*

**Crowd – Manipulated**

**READ** Matthew 21:8-11; Matthew 27:20-25

**READ:** In 2008, a 17-year old man jumped from the top of a parking garage after 300 or so people chanted for him to go for it. Some took photos and recorded video before, during and after. Afterward, the crowd dispersed, the strange spell broken. The taunters walked away wondering what came over them. The other onlookers vented their disgust into social media. We are part of a world bent on self-rule and while we may not think we would not have been part of this mob, the internal resistance to authority in our lives suggests that we would.

# Small Group Discussion

**What is an example of being sucked into the crowd that you have experienced?** *Have you ever been part of a Blog where you began thrashing a person (public figure or author) in ways that you would never do in a face-to-face?*

**What ways has Christ provided a family or crowd to help you navigate through the culture that would move you against God?** *E.g. Christian family, Weekly large-church worship, even a Small Group, Christian Radio, awareness of the Church community world-wide.*

**Jesus Barabbas – Lucky!** (theological term=blessing)

**Read Mark 15:8-15** Notice that absence of any details about Barabbas. He has nothing to do with any of the events of the trial of Jesus before Pilate except that his sentence of execution on the cross was coming up that day along with Jesus. Mark indicates that the crowd may have sensed Pilate was trying to find a way out of condemning Jesus, so they reminded Pilate of his annual offer to free one notorious criminal. This would at the same time seal Christ's fate.

**How does Barabbas' freedom compare with our forgiveness offered by Christ?** *Christ took our guilt in our place and simply offers us freedom when we didn't deserve it, and faced certain destruction from our guilt and effects of sin.*

**Close with Romans 5:6-11**

**Two kinds of ways to identify with these examples of our treatment of Christ:**

1) Many times each of us have given into the crowd when we knew better (Pilate), or carelessly walked away from Christ because of busy-ness or distraction (Herod) or have been manipulated by others with an agenda against God when at the same time claiming to love and follow Christ. Thank God that He chose to save you anyway, like Barabbas!

2) There are others who are being pressured by the crowds, too loaded down with hurt & guilt to recognize God's love, or they've never heard about Christ's love for them. We get to be Christ to them, to take on their suffering and pain so they can see Christ's love through us.

Take time to discuss your Small Group's Justice issue (from last week), or the Service Project coming up. Joe is asking all Small Groups to sign up to help with filling Easter Eggs and perhaps to help with the Easter Egg hunts coming up. Details at <http://www.onehellofaday.com/almsgiving-through-a-small-group>