

the road to the cross

Week 5 - Condemnation

mark 14-16

1. Share a time when you have acted against your better judgment, possibly because other people were pressuring you to do something.

In our series so far we have seen Jesus predict his betrayal and death. He was then betrayed by Judas; he was arrested and taken away; he was hauled before the Jewish authorities to explain himself, where he was judged worthy of death because he said that he was the Christ. Now we come to the point where Jesus is taken to Pilate (the Roman ruler), because under Jewish law they weren't allowed to execute anyone, and so they want Pilate to rule for them that Jesus should be killed...

Read Mark 15:1-20

2. As you read the passage, note down your initial reactions towards Pilate's actions at each stage.
3. What things in the passage indicate that Pilate was trying to free Jesus?
4. Why do you think that Pilate eventually agrees to having Jesus crucified?
5. As you read this, how does it make you feel about the injustice done towards Jesus?
6. How does Jesus himself respond to the injustice? Why do you think he acts in this way?

Read Acts 3:11-20

In the passage directly before this one (Acts 3:1-10) Peter and John have healed a crippled beggar.

7. In this passage, Peter states that the Jewish people and their leaders acted in ignorance (verse 17). What is he saying they were ignorant about?

8. In your own words, explain what verse 18 is speaking about.

9. What does Peter urge the Jewish people to do? What is the effect of this?

10. In what ways in your life do you similarly act in ignorance (or perhaps intentionally) against God's will?

11. What do these passages teach us about our sin, and how we must respond?

Pray to thank God for sending Jesus for all of us – no matter how badly we may have sinned against him. Pray for those family or friends whom you know have not turned to God.