



DISCIPLESHIP GROUP STUDY

WEEK 9: JOHN 18

WARM UP

- One for the history buffs... name some of the major kingdoms/empires throughout human history.
- One for everyone... name some of the metaphorical “kingdoms” (i.e. a domain in which there is a ruler or authorities) that operate in our world today.

STUDY

[You can read John 18:1-27 for context, if you like.]

- 1) Read v28.** What is ironic/hypocritical about the actions of the Jewish leaders?
- 2) Read v29-32.** Why did the Jewish leaders want Jesus, not just punished, but put to death? Was their motivation justified, not justified, or a bit of both?
- 3) Read v33-36.** Contrast the two kingdoms represented by Pilate (Roman governor of Judaea) and Jesus. Is it any wonder Pilate didn't understand what Jesus was talking about?

4) Now contrast Jesus' kingdom with some of the "kingdoms" you named in the second Warm Up question. How is Jesus' kingdom different from the rulers/authorities in our world?

5) Read v37-38a. The contrast becomes even sharper... now we have Jesus, who said "I am the way, the truth, and the life", and Pilate, who dismisses the very idea of truth! In what ways do you see this contrast play out in people you know?

6) Do you believe Jesus is "the truth"? Are you willing to accept and submit to his truth in every aspect of your life? (i.e. are you willing to follow him with 'both feet'?)

7) Read v38b-40. The people were willing to accept a negative outcome, i.e. the release of a known criminal, rather than accept the truth of Jesus. What negative outcomes do people choose today rather than follow Jesus?

BRING IT HOME

- When you look at your own life, does it look more like you are trying to live for your own kingdom, a worldly kingdom, or the kingdom of Jesus?
- Ask God to show you what changes you might need to make in order to be living with 'both feet' in his kingdom.