

Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 18:28-40

Read John 18:28-40

Sermon Summary:

Jesus was handed over by the Jewish leaders to Pilate with the intention that Pilate carry out their wishes to have Jesus killed. The Jewish leaders conspired by using the Roman official do their dirty work. On the other hand, Pilate appeases the Jewish leaders and does their bidding. He doesn't care for justice or truth. Pilate questions Jesus about his being the King of the Jews. Jesus' response is that he is a King but his kingdom is not of this world nor from this world. Some evangelical Christians believe that their government should reflect or at least be supportive of the kingdom of Christ. This is what some call Christian nationalism. There is no such thing as a 'Christian nation.' As believers our citizenship is in the heavens. We must be careful that we do not become worshipers of our nation. Jesus declared that we are to worship the Lord our God and serve only him.

Discussion:

1. Why did the Jewish leaders take Jesus to Pilate instead of putting him to death by stoning?
2. Do you have any sympathy for Pilate? If so why and if not why not?
3. What does it mean for Jesus to say "My kingdom is not of this world"?
4. Read verse 37. What does it mean when Jesus says "I was born for this..."?
5. Paul D Miller said: '**Christian Nationalism**' is the belief that the American nation is defined by Christianity, and that the government should take active steps to keep it that way. What is the problem with this belief?
6. There are different beliefs and views about how we see a nation and its government. What does the Bible say about our attitude toward government and its leaders?
7. Read 2 Peter 1:10-11. What are we called to? How can we confirm our calling?

End with Prayer