

AMAZING LOVE 02: MATTHEW 26:57-68: JESUS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Introduction

1. How do you feel when someone twists your words? Why? How do you react?

Please Read Mt 26:57-68

2. In what ways is Jesus abused and humiliated in these verses?
3. Matthew begins his gospel by telling us that Jesus is "God with us" (1:23). What do we learn about God's character when we see the One who is "God with us" submitting to this abuse? What is revealed about God's love for us in this story?
4. In v.64 Jesus identifies Himself as the One described in Daniel 7:13-14 as ruling everything with all authority of God. Yet the One with the authority to judge us first comes to save us by laying down His life for us (see how Peter preached this as the heart of the gospel in Acts 10:42-43). And now we must give our verdict on Him, as v.66 indicates: "*What do you think?*" Well – what do YOU think of Jesus? How does your life show it?
5. It's easy to see that Jesus was badly treated by the Sanhedrin. We surely would not do what they did ... BUT stop and think ... are there areas of your life where, at the very least, you don't honour our Lord in the way that is His due? What might you need to change to do greater justice to who Jesus is as your Saviour and King? How does this passage encourage us that the Lord continues to love us even while we struggle to honour Him as King?
6. Where in your life at the moment do you most need to be reassured about God's love for you? How would your life be different if you reckoned seriously with the self-abasement of Jesus and truly believed, "*This is MY God!*"?

In conclusion:

- Reflect on how God's amazing love for us is shown in Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin, and spend some time in confession, thanksgiving and praise.

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