

## **AMAZING LOVE 04: JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

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

**Please read John 18:28 – 19:16 and Matthew 27:19-26**

### **For discussion:**

1. What are your first thoughts on reading this story? How do you react? Why?
2. How does John emphasise Pilate's verdict on Jesus? Note especially 18:38; 19:4,6 (and compare Mt 27:19,23). Why do you think this point is so important to the gospel writers?
3. How does Jesus' trial before Pilate in fact put Pilate on trial? And us too? What is exposed about his heart and ours in this story? Compare 18:25-26. Confess ways in which you too have opted to save yourself (your comfort and convenience) at cost to Christ – the most recent rather than ancient history! How can we comfort and strengthen one another at this point with the gospel?
4. See Mt 27:19: How did God reach out to Pilate even at the eleventh hour? How is your presence in the life of not-yet-Christian a repeated warning and invitation from God to them?
5. While evil hands are clearly at work in these events, how does John show us that God is at work too? See 18:32; 19:11. Look at how the apostles put this together in their preaching – Acts 2:23 ... and in their praying ... Acts 4:27-28. How might this give us confidence in the face of evil?
6. Jesus' enemies were working to save themselves by destroying Him – but at the same time, Jesus was working to save His enemies by laying down His life for them – see Jn 3:16-17; 10:11. Here is a God who simultaneously uncovers our sin and guilt AND provides us with the Saviour we need – at the greatest cost to Himself. How do you react to this?

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!*

### **In Conclusion:**

- Spend time in worship and praise for such a Saviour. Pray for those you know who are still blind to His love.

*January 2020*