**BCM Bible Study – Nov. 17/18, 2021**

**Mark 14:53-15:32**

**Mark 14:53-65**

* Mark clearly wrote verse 55 with a pointed implication. What might Mark be suggesting here?

**Deuteronomy 19:15-21**

* How does the court procedure described here compare to what occurs to Jesus?

Notably, Jesus remains silent throughout this process (v.61). Yet, he was perfectly innocent. Why would Jesus choose to remain quiet in this moment as all of these false accusations are made?

* **Isaiah 53:7-12**
* As we think about the way that we often might try to defend ourselves when we sin with excuses, even though we are guilty, what can we learn from Jesus’ response in this situation?
	+ Does Jesus’ humility and silent acceptance serve to convict you? How so?
* None of the disciples, nor anyone who knew Jesus or loved him had acknowledged both of these points yet. How might this serve as a warning for us as Christians now?
* 1) Jesus’ suffering fulfills prophecy and shows he is who he says he is. 2) Jesus’ suffering shows us the full extent of his love and grace. 3) Jesus’ suffering encourages us when we go through trials. Which of these three is most meaningful to you and why?
	+ How revolutionary is the suffering of our Lord here as compared to other religions?

**Mark 14:66-72**

* Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus here? What was his fear or motivation for doing this?
* Peter then receives not one, but two chances to correct his mistake. How does Peter pale in comparison to Jesus as he fails under these minor pressures?
* **Luke 22:61**
* How can we ensure that our repentance is true, not just fueled by emotions or the moment?
* Peter crumbled under his persecution after some big talk. What can we do to make sure that we don’t deny our Lord just as he did?

**Read Mark 15:1-20**

* Once again, Jesus chooses to remain silent as opposed to trying to rightfully defend himself. How is Jesus’ behavior as true King contrasted with the brutality and power that most expected from rulers and kings at this point?
	+ Where do you find yourself slipping into using similar brutality and power? Where are you more likely to stand up aggressively than to sit and accept?
	+ How can the Church and Christians seek to cultivate a more peaceful posture as opposed to one marked by this cultural aggressiveness?
* Pilate was a man concerned primarily with his social standing and position in life, as his morality here would show. Where have you noticed social standing and others’ views affecting how you live your life?
	+ This is a challenge for all of us. What steps can you take to help lead an authentically Christian life, not swayed by the views of others?
* The religious leaders were so decidedly against Jesus that they played part in releasing Barabbas, a proven murderer over the innocent one. What does this reveal about their interest and involvement in all these trials?

**Mark 15:21-32**

* Which aspect of this account stands out the most to you and why?
* **Romans 16:13**
* Why do you think that after helping to carry Jesus’ cross Simon’s family came to faith? What might have been observed in that shameful walk?
* Have you ever thought about the extraordinary pain that Jesus, being fully man, must have endured throughout this process?
	+ How does thinking about that now impact the way that you view Jesus?
* These points of contention ultimately acknowledge the truth of who Jesus is and what he does. What might this suggest about the way that people view Jesus (now or then)?
* Jesus’ characterization as the “humble, suffering servant” is nearly complete now with this. How does this contrast with the view of the Messiah that the Jews had? How does this continue to contrast with how we view strong leadership today?