



Violence Turned to Mercy

Matthew 26:47-56

- The right passion, wrong action.

How did they miss the Savior?

Judas-The Betrayal

Luke 22:3, John 12:4-6, 1 Samuel 16:7

- We can be near the things of God without being close to God.
- He asked: “What’s in it for me?”

Religious leaders-The Mock Trial

Matthew 26:57-68, Jeremiah 29:23-14, James 4:8, Joh 19:38-42

- They asked: “Who do you think you are?”
- They were motivated by pride more than God.

Pilate-The Rigged Trial

Matthew 26:39, 27:11-26, Luke 23:4

- He feared the crowd more than Christ.

The Crowd-The Jury

- They chose culture over Christ.

Our place in the story: Barabbas

Questions/Topics for this week:

1. Who you find yourself relating to most in the story (Peter, Judas, religious leaders, Pilate, Barabbas), and why?
2. How does how we perceive ourselves affect how we view God? How has your view of God changed over your lifetime, and why?
3. Why can it be so easy for us to choose culture over Christ? How can we safeguard ourselves against the culture having such an influence over us?

Be Intentional:

Take time to reflect and assess your motivations in different areas of life, such as relationships, work, and decision-making. Make a list identifying any areas where self-interest or worldly desires may be influencing your actions and commit that list to prayer over the next week.

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Pray:

Spend time praying together. What are some ways in which you can pray for each other? Take some time in the coming week to explore ways in which you can encourage one another. Remember to share with your group what you are learning about those opportunities and reflect on God's Word as you pray for each other.