

Read: John 18:1-40

But despite the darkness of the story, John is quick to assure us that God's glory is nevertheless at work. This is the King of glory, now arrayed before Israel. God is at work within these events (this is "the hour" he planned from the beginning) and Jesus is still in control. He asks the questions and makes the judgments. He alone has power that comes from "above." Despite the difficulties of the world's treatment of God and his Son, God will prevail. God's glory and power cannot be suppressed or be contained by the plots of human antagonists. - Gary Burge



And you were dead in your trespasses and sins which you once walked... BUT GOD being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved - Ephesians 2:1; 4-5

Questions:

1. When was a time a situation seemed to be going bad, but turned out for good?
2. What from the passage or sermon caught your attention, challenges, or confuses you?
3. Verse 4, 11, 37 all reveal the trial & crucifixion are a part of God's plan - "Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him...". How does knowing God is Great (sovereign) bring comfort? Allow us to relinquish control?
4. We can see both who God is and ourselves through the Jesus interactions - which account do you relate too:
Leaders who look elsewhere (v/12-14; 19-24; 28-38) -> God is GOOD ...so we don't have to look elsewhere
Peter who is driven by fear (v/15-18, 25-27) -> God is GLORIOUS...so we don't have to fear others
Barabbas who is rebellious & guilty (v/38-40) -> God is GRACIOUS...so we don't have to prove ourselves
5. The main thrust of the passage is that Jesus is King - he is reigning and ruling (18:36-37). How does that bring you comfort and peace right now. What does it look like to live in light of that truth practically?

Prayer

How can the group pray for you this week?