

SENTENCED

As preached on Sunday, July 5th

Read: John 19:1-16

1. In vv.1-3 the soldiers mock Jesus. What, specifically, do they do and why? What is so ironic about their decision to do so?
2. It's been suggested that when Pilate presents Jesus to the Jewish people in vv.4-8 after flogging him he is hoping they will have compassion on Jesus? Do you agree or disagree? What is the actual impact of that presentation?
3. As Pilate continues to interrogate Jesus privately he finally says, "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or crucify you?" How does Jesus respond? What is the significance of Jesus' sovereignty in this moment?
4. No matter how Pilate tries to persuade the crowd, they continue calling for Jesus' death. Why are they so insistent on this? Why do you think Pilate finally relents?
5. Where are we tempted to compromise truth for our own comfort?
6. What "Caesar" competes for our own allegiance at times?
7. In what ways does Jesus' willing suffering reshape the way we respond to hardship and injustice?