

## Encountering Christ

### Wk 3

#### *Before Pilate*

**Purpose:** For students to put themselves in the shoes of those who encountered Christ and choose how they would respond.

**Passage (s):** MT. 27:11-26, Mk 15:1-15, Jn. 18:29-19:

**Topic:** How do you respond when God shows up/ Christ reveals himself?

*Ricks Devotional:* Many times we encounter Christ and miss it, but more times than we'd like to admit we encounter Christ/ or God @ work and we choose not to respond. The goal over the next few weeks is to paint some biblical pictures of people encountering Christ and hang the question in the air, what would you have done, how would you have responded. What are you doing now?

This week we're looking at Jesus before Pilate near the time of his crucifixion. As far as we can tell this was Pilate's first face to face encounter with Christ. Pilate's response to Christ is full of accusation, threat, and fear. The crowd has set up this whole ordeal and is continuing to make things difficult by demanding their own way. The kicker in this passage is how Christ responds to Pilate and the people. He's already been beaten and abused and knows that it will continue, but he responds to those who don't know him with patience, understanding, and authority rather than judgment and condemnation. When we encounter Christ are we so enraged with our own way as the crowd was that we refuse to see his love, are we on such a power trip as Pilate was that don't understand who we're talking to.

For those of us who act and live like Christ, when our surroundings are raging around us and when "Pilate's" question us with accusation, do we respond like He did, with silence, understanding, and authority, knowing and understanding what God's will is and believing him through it.

*Small Group:*

Option A;

1. What are some times you've responded accusatorially?
  - a. Was it justifiable, what deems it that?
2. What are some times you've responded with rage?
  - a. Was that a choice or did it "just happen"
  - b. Do you think that's healthy?

Option B:

1. Have you ever responded like Christ did?
  - a. What were some of the consequences?
  - b. With Silence, why?
  - c. With authority, why?
  - d. With understanding, why?