

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

THE JESUS DILEMMA, Part 5

A Soldier's Dilemma

May 29, 2011



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>
2. Let your friends know that they can always live stream the Rock Church Sunday worship experience by visiting <http://www.therocksandiego.org/live/>
3. Next Small Group New Leader Orientation will be on Sunday June 26th. If you have somebody in your group that is ready to step up and lead their own group, have them contact Scotty at scotty.james@therocksandiego.org for more info.

MEMORY VERSES

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” (Acts 8:13 NIV)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – THE JESUS DILEMMA (A SOLDIER'S DILEMMA)

Getting Started

1. Review the 3 points of “A Soldier's Dilemma” as listed in the lesson plan:
 1. **Threatened** not to preach, they preached anyway. *Acts 4:13-19, 5:17-28*
 2. **Beaten** and jailed, they praised God. *Acts 16:16-25*
 3. **Martyred** for their faith, they saw God. *Acts 7:54-60*
2. What point from the lesson plan stood out to you the most and why?
3. Other than the fact that all of the disciples were martyred (**see Sunday lesson plan**), what was the other thing that all of them had in common that attributed to their deaths?

Digging Deeper

Read Heb. 11:32-40 as a group. This section of Scripture has a lot to say in regards to the expectancy of the Christian in this life, and the hope for the Christian after this life. The following questions will be focused on these verses and the hope is that we would each engage the text and what it calls the Christ-centered disciple to do in engaging the culture while worshipping Jesus.

1. Between verses 32-37 what were the results of the different people mentioned?
 - Shut the mouths of lions: *David, Daniel, or some unknown event.*
 - Quenched the fury of the flames: *Probably Daniel 3.*
 - Women received back their dead, raised to life again: *Theologically speaking this is not resurrection, but resuscitation (cf. 1 Kgs. 17:23; 2 Kgs. 4:17).*
 - Mocking and scourging: *Probably reference to the Maccabean period (164-63 BC).*
 - They were stoned: *Tradition says that Jeremiah was stoned in Egypt by the Jews.*
 - Sawed in two: *Tradition says that Isaiah was put into a hollow log and sawed in two by Manasseh's order.*
2. Verse 38 states, "the world was not worthy of them..." Based on the author's intent of these passages, why did the author have such high regard for these people?
3. Looking at your current life situation or others around you, how does this portion of Scripture encourage you?

Maybe this portion discourages you, explain why? What is the passage calling us to do? Consider the quote below for direction:

"I can no longer condemn or hate a brother [or sister] for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me is transformed through intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died." *Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) is known for his leadership role in the Confessing Church, efforts on behalf of peace and justice, opposition to anti-Semitism, and writings on theology and ethics that have been influential far beyond his German Lutheran context. He was hanged by the Nazis on April 6, 1945 in the Flossenburg concentration camp, less than one month before the Nazi's surrendered in Berlin.