



## Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 6 March 2023

1. What struck you most from Sunday's Sermon?

**Please read Mark 1.1; 1.33-34; 5.42-43; 8.27-30; 9.7-9; 14.53-65**

2. Why do you think Jesus forbids others from explaining about his identity – and remains silent himself in plainly explaining His identity – until this point at his trial? Why here? Why then?
3. Why do the Jewish leaders consider what He says as blasphemous, and not only ridiculous?
4. How does the humanity and authority of Jesus stand in contrast with the corruption of humanity and power seen all around Him?
5. What kind of Messiah - with what kind of power and authority - was Peter (and likely the other apostles) intent on imposing on Jesus?

*As we encounter Jesus in these passages, we're here too: at the arrest of Jesus; in the crowd; at the cross - watching, listening, judging Him. Why doesn't He resist? we ask. Why does He let people less powerful than Him treat Him like this? Why doesn't He call down legions of angels and zap them all? As we stand in the presence of Jesus, we come to a vital discovery – that we are the ones being tried. Everything the world (and we) naturally equate with greatness and power and the 'best' of humanity is being challenged. Is the great and powerful person the one who... is popular? Is always in control of events? Who looks impressive? Who never appears weak? Who has influence over others?*

6. Then what do we make of Jesus (read Isaiah 53.2-3)? And how does He radically challenge our attitude and aspirations towards greatness and power?
7. 'At his trial Jesus is the one in chains, and yet He is the only truly free person in the room.' What makes Jesus free?
8. There is only one power that gives freedom and life – how can we experience the freedom that Jesus experiences?

*The uncomfortable truth at the conclusion of the gospel is that the present corrupt powers and authorities are not immediately dismantled as the Kingdom of God is inaugurated. The Kingdom of God will take ground 'on earth as it is in heaven' as Jesus followers follow in His way of love and resistance – living and offering a new way, a new truth, and a new life in God's freedom from sin, corruption and fear – in Jesus' Name.*

9. 'When we are most radically at odds with how the world runs itself, we are most fully at home in embracing God's different vision for His creation – because His ways are not the world's ways.' – What do you think of this? Does this make for an 'easy' life?