



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 2 April 2023

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

Please read John 18.28-36

2. In v36 Jesus says, 'My kingdom is not of this world' – in what ways is Jesus' kingdom 'other worldly' when compared to the kingdoms of this world?
3. What kind of kingdom does not need to be defended in the conventional way – with weapons and armies and security defences?
4. How might we be tempted to try to defend the kingdom of God by fighting fire with fire (like when Jesus' disciple tried to defend Jesus by taking a sword to the High Priest's servant at Gethsemane)?
5. What's Jesus' way of dealing with opposition to His Kingdom? – think about examples from the gospel accounts.

Please read John 18. 37-38

*In John's Gospel, Jesus is characterized as the revealer of the truth about God and life and creation; the testifier to the truth; the explainer of the truth; the embodiment and the perfect example of the truth. See **John 1.1-5; 1.14-17; 4.21-26; 14.6-7***

6. In John 18.38 Jesus says to Pilate, 'Everyone on the side of truth listens to me'. What makes Jesus unique as the '*the way, the truth and the life*' – rather than one of many ways of spiritual enlightenment?

Please read John 8.31-32 and John 17.14-18

7. Living in the truth of Jesus' teaching brings us to a place of liberty – it sets us free from the untruthful, the fake, the inauthentic - from the grip and power of sin and pride and godlessness. It sets us free to live in the reality of seeing ourselves and his world through God's eyes. It leads us to live in the ways of God's wisdom and grace. Living in the truth is eye-opening, life affirming, liberating... So then why is it such a challenge for us to 'hold to Jesus' teaching' in our lives?
8. As we wrestle with the issues of our generation – eg, Climate Change / Gender definition / human sexuality / racial inequality / refugees, etc, etc... Why is it vital for us personally and for our society that the disciples of Jesus wrestle to understand, and then follow, and then to share the truth of Jesus' teaching in these issues (no matter how 'other worldly' they seem to the world)?
9. Where are the big tensions for you as you try to live in the world but not of the world?