

**SERMON:** Injustice and Justice in the Death of Jesus  
**SERIES:** The Gospel of Mark  
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Brady

February 25, 2018

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

#### **SCRIPTURE:**

*Mark 14:43-65.*

<sup>43</sup> And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. <sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>46</sup> And they laid hands on him and seized him. <sup>47</sup> But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>48</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup> Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled."<sup>50</sup> And they all left him and fled.

<sup>51</sup> And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, <sup>52</sup> but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

<sup>53</sup> And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. <sup>54</sup> And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. <sup>56</sup> For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup> And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup> "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" <sup>59</sup> Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup> And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>61</sup> But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." <sup>63</sup> And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? <sup>64</sup> You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. <sup>65</sup> And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

## **SERMON OUTLINE:**

- I. The Nature of Justice.
- II. Injustice and Justice and the Death of Jesus
- III. Jesus the Judge

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. What comes to mind when you think about justice? Justice seeks to exalt others even if it means disadvantaging ourselves. Where have you seen yourself doing justice or possibly failing to do justice in your own life? Church? Society?
2. Why is it that forgiveness and restorative justice must go hand in hand? How do they work together?  
Note: Restorative justice seeks to restore the humanity of both the victim and the victimizer. It also seeks to restore the community, either by repentance or removal of the victimizer.
3. How does Mark 14:43-65 point to the injustice of Jesus' death? Have you ever experienced injustice like this? How does Jesus' death allow you to not make your wounds your identity?
4. Jesus' death for the sins of others was justice because he willingly sacrificed his own life in our place for our crimes. How does the death of Jesus, in our place, bring about restorative justice in our lives (think about forgiveness and the new creation)? Have you seen God's restorative justice at work in your own life? Is there anyone in your life that you have hurt with whom you may need to make amends?
5. Read Mark 14:62. Jesus is God; He will return and reign; He will establish justice. How does the truth of Jesus' ultimate rule and justice allow us to forgive? How does it allow us to repent and trust his justice in our personal lives?
6. We said that God wants to restore His community, and he will do it through repentance or removal of the unrepentant. Which are you? Have you repented of your sins and injustices?

Pray: Thank God for his forgiveness and his justice. Ask him to guide you into the forgiveness of others, while not denying restoration. Ask him to reveal ways that you can seek justice in the world around you.