

# Sunday Sermon Questions • 1/4/2026

## Mark 15 : 1-20

### Who's Really in Control?

In this passage, it appears that Pilate, the religious leaders, and the crowd are calling the shots. Where do you see evidence that God is actually in control of the events unfolding? How does this shape the way you view difficult or unjust situations in your own life?

### The Silence of the King

Jesus remains silent in the face of false accusations, while the religious leaders respond with anger and manipulation. What stands out to you about Jesus' silence?

When have you felt tempted to defend yourself rather than trust God with the outcome?

### What Will You Do With Jesus?

Pilate asks the question that ultimately confronts every person: "What shall I do with the one you call the King of the Jews?" How do people today avoid answering this question? In what practical ways does your daily life reveal how you've answered it?

### Choosing Comfort or Conviction

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, yet he chose to satisfy the crowd to protect his position. Where do you see the temptation to prioritize comfort, approval, or self-preservation over obedience to God? What makes this tension especially difficult?

### A Kingdom-Minded New Year

The sermon challenges us to consider whether our goals have eternal significance. As you begin this new year, what spiritual goals might God be inviting you to pursue? What intentional steps and disciplines would help you follow Jesus with unwavering commitment, even when the path includes pain or resistance?

## Prayer Prompt:

Heavenly Father, we come before You humbled by the truth of who Jesus is—our King, our Savior, and our Redeemer—and we ask for forgiveness for the times we have chosen comfort, approval, or control over obedience to You; like Pilate and the crowd, we confess that fear and self-interest have too often shaped our decisions more than faith. Thank You, Jesus, for faithfully carrying out the Father's will, never wavering even when it led to suffering and the cross, and help us to trust You when following You requires sacrifice, discipline, and perseverance. As we step into this new year, align our goals, priorities, and desires with what matters eternally, strengthen us to live with intention and endurance, and may our lives clearly reflect Your kingdom as we surrender ourselves to You once again. Amen.