

Sermon Summary
Good Friday
29th March 2013

- The gospel writers are often accused of putting all the blame for Jesus' death on the Jewish people. This seems especially the case in Matthew, but does not fit with a close reading of John
- John always stresses that those who oppose Jesus are not the whole people, but rather a powerful faction.
- John also brings out the fact that the death of Jesus is not just a failure at a personal level, but at a corporate or structural level.
- He depicts the powerful faction who oppose Jesus as abusing their power throughout the gospel (This is shown before the Passion- and is why John has less of a 'trial' or interrogation' than the other gospels)
- They have failed to use due legal process, interpret scripture well, and have intimidated witnesses.
- But the structural failure is not confined to them. It includes Pilate.
- He has all the power and potential to see justice is done, but does not.
- He chooses expediency over justice
- His infamous 'what is truth?' shows a man bereft of any moral compass beyond sophistry
- He, for a powerful leader, allows himself to be manipulated and outplayed at every turn by his subjects.
- The death of Jesus shows thus not just a man killed by failures in personal morality, but by the failures of his society to protect him.
- This shows that Christians must be every bit as concerned about structural sin and the failings of society as their own personal morality and sinfulness.

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