

Mar 7, 2021 – Small Group Questions - “The Darkness Within Us”

Read John 18:13-27

1. **Verse 14:** What Caiaphas intended for evil against Jesus, God directed from the beginning for the good of all the world. While we may never know God's specific purposes and plans for each and every circumstance, what wisdom and comfort do we gain in trusting God's sovereignty over all things?
2. **Verse 17:** When the slave girl asked Peter if he was one of Jesus' followers, Peter replied, "I am not." Peter's response was a repudiation of Jesus' self-revelation as the "I am", the God of Israel revealed through Moses. How do we as Christians repudiate and deny Jesus' self-revelation to the world whenever we fall into sin and act defiantly and disobediently against His laws?
3. **Verse 18:** Around the charcoal fire, Peter was counted among the guilty, among those who detained and bound Jesus. Peter's guilt was brought to light by the charcoal fire. Much later in John's gospel, another charcoal fire that Jesus had prepared would be the setting around which Peter would be reinstated. What are the kinds of "charcoal fire" in our Christian tradition that serve to illuminate our sin while also restoring us to a right relationship with God?
4. **Verses 19-24:** Despite being bound and interrogated by Annas, Jesus was the One in total charge of the conversation. Jesus was the One who finally questioned and uncovered the evil in those who accused Him. How could we emulate Jesus in His integrity, truth-telling, and defiance against evil when we stand to face injustice and corruption?