

The King of Truth

Jn 18:28-38

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. 29 Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" 30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." 31 Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," 32 that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. 33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" NKJV

The plan of the Jews is to turn Jesus over to the Romans. But to do that they must accuse Him of something against Roman law. Roman law cared not if Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Caesar himself claimed to be a god. So they tell Pilate that this Jesus claimed to be a king and that He was working insurrection among the people.

So when they bring Jesus to Pilate they say nothing about the real reason they have brought Him. So let us look at this passage to see how it all unfolds.

- I. Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning.
- II. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.
 - A. Praetorium
 1. word here rendered "hall of judgment" is from the Latin, and denotes "the palace of the governor of a Roman province."—Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary
 - B. Lest they should be defiled and not be able to eat the Passover.
 1. This verse indicates that the Jewish leaders, and the rest of Judea, had not yet eaten the passover, and that would mean that Passover would start at evening of this day.
 2. If Passover started the evening before then Jesus was crucified on Passover which the Jews would have never have done.

- III. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"
 30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."
- A. Pilate was required to post the accusation of each criminal above his cross.
- B. But the Jews try first to not to prove that He was guilty.
1. "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."
- IV. 31 Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," 32 that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.
- A. The Jewish leaders did not care how He would die, but they could not kill him lest they themselves be hauled in before Pilate.
- B. But Jesus had known from the beginning how He would die.
1. Jn 3:14 (NKJV) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
 2. Jn 12:32 (NKJV) And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.
 3. Mt 20:19 (NKJV) and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."
 4. Mt 26:2 (NKJV) "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."
 5. Lk 24:7 (NKJV) saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' "
- V. 33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"
- VI. 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"
- VII. 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."
- A. A kingdom is a place of rule.
1. It can be as extensive as the universe, as in the case of Jesus.
 2. It can be as small as the heart of a child.

- B. Jesus kingdom is primarily a spiritual kingdom.
 - 1. We often think of spiritual things as the things that not substantive.
 - 2. But the truth is that spiritual things are the primary things and the material things are the ones not substantive.
 - a. Houses are not substantive.
 - b. Bodies are not substantive.
 - c. Money is certainly not substantive.

VIII. 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

IX. Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

- A. Jesus is more of a King than any earthly king.
- B. His birth was that of a King.
- C. For this cause, that I should bear witness to the truth.
 - 1. What truths did Jesus give us.
 - 2. That would be a great homework assignment for this week. What truths did Jesus give us that the world rejects out of hand.
- D. Truth
 - 1. There is a God a creator to whom we will give an account.
 - 2. We are sinners by birth and by choice, rebels against God.
 - 3. That the world hates God and persecutes His people.
 - 4. That Jesus is the only way to life and peace.
 - 5. That all other ways are lies and only imitators of God.
 - 6. That unless you repent you will perish.
 - 7. That unless you love Jesus more than your own life you will perish.
 - 8. And countless others.
- E. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.
 - 1. Unless a person is following the teachings of Jesus, the probability is that they are not of the truth and are walking in darkness.
 - 2. Jn 10:26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they

follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

- X. 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"
 - A. Pilate is fed up with this whole scene of the Jews wanting to kill this man, demanding that Pilate authorize it.
 - B. Also Pilate is a very pragmatic man.
 - 1. As long as it works then it is OK.
 - 2. We will see Pilate condemn whom he knows to be an innocent man to death, because it will serve his purpose.
 - 3. He will get some favor with the Jewish leaders he thinks.
 - 4. It will make his life easier he thinks.

Maybe you are still like Pilate in our story today.

What is truth you say as though it really doesn't exist.

Maybe you scoff at the claims of this carpenter from Galilee.

Of friend do not be so blind. Jesus said all those who are of the truth hear His voice.

Would you hear His voice today.