

18:28-40 Caiaphas and Pilot, Who is Jesus the Christ?

Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?

Reading – Matthew 26:59-64 9th October, 2016

We have been looking at how Jesus faced His accusers. He knew this was God's will for His life. He had lived a righteous life, He had prayed and been granted strength, and He had gone forward to confess His identity in front of the mob. He told Ananias last week to look at what He taught. There is no excuse for not looking, as we have it written down. There will be no special revelation given to men today, but a rebuke because they don't chose to believe what has been given them. The evidence is clear, the testimony is clear; the fault is always in our hearts. Like the pharisees, men don't WANT to believe. Today we want to look at the two questions that we see Christ answering in front of His accusers: Caiaphas who asked Him in Matthew "Who are you?" and Pilot who asks Him "What are you?" It is interesting to note that both answers of Jesus were verified at the cross. He was labeled "This is the King of the Jews." (John 19:19) and the Roman centurion in charge realized and testified "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54) On these answers hang all of the past, present, and future. More than that, on it hangs our past, present, and future. The Son of God who is King of Heaven, will one day rule over the heavens and the earth. Join us as we look at Christ's answers.

- 1st Response: John 18:19 "The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine." God is not required to answer, nor will He be bullied or forced to answer.
- 2nd Response: Who are you? Matthew 26:63-64 "63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, I put You under oath by the living God: 64 Jesus said to him, It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."
- 3rd Response: Are you a King? John 18:33 "Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, Are You the King of the Jews?"
- Replies
 - 1st – Each one was concerned with His position and power. Annas with His authority, The high priest with His right to speak from God, and the governor with His authority as King.
 - In some ways this is normal you could say. It was their jobs to ask these questions...
 - Christ always impacts us!!! He challenges us where we are. If He doesn't, you don't know Him. He is Lord of all!
 - Luke 9:23-24 "23 Then He said to *them* all, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."
 - Discipleship is allowing Him to fill every part / area of your life.
 - But, it was a rejection of His authority over them. Jesus is either everything or nothing. You can't choose part of Him. He is, and you have to take Him as He calls you or reject Him. The real question was would they yield to Him.
 - Reasons could be given. Messiah-ship and kingship were threats...
 - Pilot was not offended, didn't even care, and didn't see Him as a threat.
 - As the Christ, He was what they professed to be waiting for, but the evidence showed their unwillingness to yield to God. They had built a system on themselves and their own righteousness, until they couldn't and wouldn't look for truth.
 - Evidence! They had all the evidence needed. As Christ had told Annas in John 18:20-21 ... "20 I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. 21 Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."
 - He had preached at their feasts. They came to meet God and God came to them... They didn't like it! God is not a comfortable grandfather, but the almighty Lord of Heaven and Earth. He is TRUTH. He is HOLINESS. He is light searching and destroying darkness.

- He had repeatedly done the impossible.
 - End of **John 8** Christ had told them that He was the Son of God, the great “I AM.” As they try to stone Him, He does two miracles. 1.) He passes out of the midst. 2.) He heals a man born blind. The man testified in **John 9:32-33** ³² “Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. ³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” In **Verse 38** he comes to believe in Jesus!
 - End of **John 10** they are ready to stone Jesus again, with stones in their hands because He declared himself God. (**John 10:33**)
 - **John 11:38** He raises Lazarus. Both of these miracles were directly planned by God, for God’s glory to show His power. The giving of sight and the giving of life. Only God can give either. The blind man knew it, untrained yet he knew truth. Lazarus was again beyond description. He was such a testimony that they wanted to kill Lazarus as well.
 - The record of John starts with a declaration that “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” Christ came to give life and light and ends with the doing of it on an individual, observable, undeniable way.
- We learn about the sinfulness of the heart. They choose personal gain over God.
 - **Jeremiah 17:9-10** ⁹ “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”
 - Being a Disciple is having your mind and heart searched, being tested, do you love me more than these?...
- 1st Question – **Matthew 26:63** “...Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”
 - The anointed one / the Christ. Hoped for, the second prophet like unto Moses, the voice from God Himself.
 - “Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
 - His authority. For the unbeliever, God still is. You can try to change the truth, to get out of it, to leave it, but it still is...
 - For the Believer it is why Paul would talk about working out His salvation with fear and trembling in **Philippians 2:12** and why he would give us his example of “pressing on that he might apprehend” eternal Life in **Philippians 3:12-14**.
- 2nd Question – Are you the King of the Jews: (**John 18:33**) He is king of everything, but He is waiting until the Father says enough, take back the kingdom! He is ruling, He has all authority, but it isn’t time for a political solution. Why? Salvation is being offered. When He comes it will be in judgment. He came bringing salvation, life and light to all men.
 - **2 Peter 3:9-12** ⁹ “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”

As we think of the crucifixion, I am reminded of **Hebrews 2:3-4** ³ “how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit,

according to His own will?" We stand with more knowledge and more evidence of who Christ is than either Caiaphas or Pilate. Christ still stands as Savior and Lord. Will you bow and yield to His authority, or will you fight with the King of Heaven. May we all pray that God opens our hearts to who He is, His love for us, and our responsibility to serve Him.