

Morning Sermon August 11, 2019
"The King of Truth" John 18:33-38

I. Pilate's question -

³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" John 18:33

In all four gospels, we have a record of Pilate asking Jesus this question. In all four gospels, the YOU, referring to Jesus, is emphatic! Pilate says, as if surprised, shocked, are YOU the King of the Jews?

Point is, Jesus did not look the part of a king, probably not even like one merely desiring to be king...

"It was no wonder Pilate reacted that way: Jesus was in peasant dress, stained with bloody sweat from Gethsemane, His features already swollen." R. Kent Hughes

II. Jesus' answer -

³⁴ Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" John 18:34

Jesus always spoke and answered every question perfectly, here Jesus would make Pilate think about what he asked ... is this something you have thought through yourself, or is it what others have said -

III. Pilate's further response -

³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" John 18:35

Pilate's answer indicates clearly, he had not thought of Jesus being king at all apart from the Jews. He is telling Jesus who delivered Him. What he says indicates what we hear clearly from the Jewish leaders later, they were presenting Jesus as a sort of threat to Caesar!

Pilate looks at meek, tired and probably beaten Jesus, and asks What have You done?

IV. Jesus' answer / His Kingdom is not of this world -

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." John 18:36

Two things Jesus accomplishes with this answer:

1. He communicates to Pilate what Pilate thought he already knew; He (Jesus) was no immediate threat to Caesar. Location wise His / Jesus' Kingdom was not from here
2. In every way, Jesus' Kingdom was different

V. Pilate's additional inquiry ...

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" John 18:37 A

VI. Jesus' important answer, and elaboration on His Kingdom ...

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." John 18:37 B

1. Jesus clearly confirms He is a King –
Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king.

2. He was born for this, to be King –
⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7

3. He was born to bear witness to the truth –
⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth John 18:37

V. The King / Truth Connection -

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." John 18:37 B

Jesus is the King of truth –

1. *He gives us THE TRUTH we need about God –*

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. John 1:18

This would include His teaching about Himself, as the Son of God! This is the real, true reason the Jewish leaders were against Him –

³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." John 10:33

Yet, they do not say anything about this to Pilate, with Pilate they say –

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." John 19:12

It is wonderful that Jesus, the eternal Word and Son of God would become a man, and He was born into this world, at least partially to teach us truth about God –

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

2. *He gives us THE TRUTH we need about ourselves, especially our sin sick state –*

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free?'" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:31-36

A. *The truth is we are sinners*

B. *The truth is we are slaves to sin*

C. *The truth is we cannot escape this slavery to sin apart from the mighty arm of God!*

3. *He gives us (and even Pilate) the truth about His Kingdom, it is a spiritual Kingdom –*

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. John 18:36

¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

A. *Jesus' spiritual Kingdom would not be advanced by the weapons of this world –*

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

B. *I believe Pilate partially understood what Jesus was saying, it is why he responds as he does –*

³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all." John 18:38

There is a lot of conjecture about what Pilate means to say when he asks the question "What is truth?"

However, one thing he seems almost certain to believe about TRUTH... Coming from Jesus, meek as He may appear ... He concludes TRUTH is harmless... The Roman kings had armies; this Jewish King had truth ... truth in his mind was no match for the sword.

C. *Jesus would have us to continue to preach the truth. It is how His kingdom advances in an ungodly world –*

⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." Acts 10:42-43

Arnold Brevick