



The Gospel According to John – What is Truth?

BILLDUMPHY | Week of Sunday February 28th, 2021

SERMON TEXT // John 18:19-40 English Standard Version

¹⁹The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

²⁸Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³²This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

- SERMON GUIDE** //
1. Jesus is delivered to Pilate. (vv.28-32)
 2. Jesus is interrogated by Pilate. (vv.33-38a)
 3. Jesus is judged by Pilate. (vv.38b-40)

REFLECT. II POINT. II MAKE.



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COMMUNITYGROUPS | Week of Sunday February 28th, 2021

Question 1 // Read **John 18:19-40**. What is something from the text that resonated with you, a truth that encouraged you, or even a question you may have surrounding the text theme?

Question 2 // In **John 18:38**, Pilate asks the question **“What is truth?”** This is an age-old question that deep thinkers and philosophers have wrestled to address. As Christ followers, we know that Jesus is the truth (John 14:16). **Discuss some truths rooted in the Gospels. Which ones have played a pivotal role in the current season of life you are in?**

Question 3 // On the subject of truth, there is a vast array of opinions. Some individuals believe that truth is subjective to the individual. *“What your truth is, may not be what my truth is.”* **Discuss operating with a worldview with absolute truths in a world that embraced relativity. What challenges have you run into with this? How has it aided you in life?**

Question 4 // The narrative of Jesus and Barabbas shows the depravity of man. The people chose to have a robbing insurrectionist released, rather than Christ. **How does the depravity of man help you in clinging to the truths of Christ? How does the truth that we are all fallible encourage us in this journey to root ourselves in truth?**

Reflection & Prayer

Spend time in praying that God would continue to reveal His truth to us through the time we spend in the Word, with our Community Groups, and as the body on Sunday's. Look for those who have been absent from the body on Sunday's or brothers and sisters you know are not in community and encourage them to do life with others because when we are together – we study His word. And when we study His word we can better understand, grasp, and apply truth – His truth – the only absolute truth.

REFLECT. || POINT. || MAKE.