

The King of Truth

Matthew 27:11-26

A lot has happen in the last 2 chapters of Matthew.

- 26:1-5, Jesus predicted his death 2 days in the future.
- 26:6-13, Mary anointed him, concentrating him for his sacrifice.
- 26:14-16, Judas arranged the betrayal.
- 26:17-35, Last Supper - a new and everlasting covenant.
- 26:36-46, Prayer - must I bear the wrath of sin? Yes...perfect obedience.
- 26:47-68, Falsely accused and condemned.
- 26:69-27:10, All the disciples had scattered. Peter failed. Judas overwhelmed by guilt and shame took his own life.
- 27:1-2, Jesus is led to Pilate

Pilate -> The Roman Governor

Matthew is highlighting the character of Jesus, the priests and elders, and of Pilate.

vs. 11, Are you the King of the Jews?

You have said so.

John 18:36-38 "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." **37** Then 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." **38** Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

To bear witness to the truth. -> The King of Truth!

vs. 14, The governor was greatly amazed.

Some accusations are simply absurd.

Side Note: Slow to speak (James 1:19). Simply remain silent among critics.

Question: In a culture of continuous noise how are you a person who is cultivating steadfast silence? What does it mean to be a person of truth?

Louder is not better, it is just louder.

vs. 15, It was customary during the passover, out of goodwill, for a prisoner to be released (pardoned).

Pilate believes he is making a very strong and convincing political move.

vs. 18, it was out of envy that they had delivered him up, not because Jesus was guilty or a threat to Rome.

Who do you want released?

vs. 16-17, Jesus or Barabbas?

Barabbas was guilty of murder that took place during a revolt in the city of Jerusalem.

Mark 15:7 And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas.

Luke 23:19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder.

John 18:40 They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

His name means -> son of the father, father referred to an esteemed teacher.

He was most likely the son of a prominent teacher.

He was well known.

Among the rebels -> quite possibly the other two who were crucified with Jesus.

Arrangements had been made for 3 to be crucified (description given to the others as thieves).

Pilate is betting on the crowd to choose to release Jesus.

vs. 19, Pilate's wife has a dream. Innocent and righteous.

vs. 20-23, The chief priests and elders are active behind the scenes.

The mob has been stirred up.

The crowd is in a frenzy.

Release Barabbas!

The one who has demonstrated a love for his enemies or the one who has proven his disdain and murder of his enemies?

Truth was no where close to the core concern.

The goal of the priests and elders was to get rid of Jesus.

They needed him dead and discredited (crucifixion).

There was no greater shame in death.

vs. 24, This is getting out of hand. The decision is yours. I'm out.

I'll choose my own reputation over truth.

vs. 27-31, Describe events which took place that were intended to satisfy the crowd. Maybe after a vile mockery the crowd will lose their appetite for a crucifixion.

- Jesus is scourged (John 19:1).
- Jesus is mocked as king (crown of thorns, 19:4-5).
- All of this is ridiculous. Who is this man? No king, no ruler, no messiah.

The violent crowd would not relent. Crucify Him!!

A lesson to be observed and learned from Pilate's interaction with Jesus.

Political power was Pilate's god. T

If you don't want us to get the Emperor involved you will do what we want.

Where is your loyalty? Do you value your power? We are loyal to Caesar.

Pilate is weak and cowardice -> He is completely unwilling to risk his position. He can't give us his false god (idol) rooted in power and influence.

Pilate allowed the politics of his day to override the obvious truth.

He turned to the affection of his power to save his power.

The irony is he very quickly found himself at the mercy of his idol rather than the one in control.

The truth didn't match his needs. His needs held him captive / enslaved and made him a coward.

When we meet Jesus...

What are we committed to?

Trusting in Jesus makes us strong and courageous.

It gives us the resolve to remain on the narrow path with God's word and his promises lighting our way.

We lose courage when we forget who God is.

What might I lose? What will others think of me?

Both are questions rooted in idolatry. They are safe and self-serving.

vs. 25, His blood be on us and on our children!

They will be held accountable, but they also will be free to repent.

Acts 3:14-20 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus[c] has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. **17** “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. **19** Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, **20** that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Another sharp contrast given to us as the reader.

Jesus -> innocent, resolved, obedient, and courageous.

False gods -> self seeking and always enslave

Take in the number of times Matthew brings up the blood of Jesus.

It is purposeful. It is meaningful. It is not wasted!