



BELIEVE

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 18:28-40

Then 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. So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

John 18:28-40

They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” Pilate 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.” This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

John 18:28-40

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?”

John 18:28-40

Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus 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.”

John 18:28-40

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.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

John 18:28-40

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. But 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?” They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.



I. The Nature of Human Kingdoms

John 18:28-35

Human Kingdoms

1. Prioritize False Righteousness (v.28)

John 18:28

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“Not in terms of violating OT commands but in the sense of not following the later customs of strict Jewish traditions about uncleanness. The Jewish traditions of purity made it virtually impossible for them to associate with Gentiles without becoming ritually unclean.”

(ESV Study Bible on similar verse in Acts 10:28)

Human Kingdoms

- 1. Prioritize False Righteousness (v.28)*
- 2. Utilize Lies & Pretense to Serve Agenda (v.29-31)*

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“The capital power was the most jealously guarded of all the attributes of government.”

(Sherwin-White, *Romans Society and Romans Law in the New Testament*, p. 24-47)

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Human Kingdoms

- 1. Prioritize False Righteousness (v.28)*
- 2. Utilize Lies & Pretense to Serve Agenda (v.29-31)*
- 3. Subject to God's Sovereignty (v.32)*

John 18:32

This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Isaiah 40:15-17

Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Human Kingdoms

- 1. Prioritize False Righteousness (v.28)*
- 2. Utilize Lies & Pretense to Serve Agenda (v.29-31)*
- 3. Subject to God's Sovereignty (v.32)*
- 4. Concerned with Power & Made by Military Might
(v.33, 36b)*

“Pilate goes back and forth from one to the other in seven carefully balanced episodes. The atmosphere inside is one of calm and reason in which the innocence of Jesus is made clear to Pilate; outside there are frenzied shouts of hate as ‘the Jews’ put pressure on Pilate to find Jesus guilty...”

(Brown, John, 2:858)

“Pilate’s constant passing from one setting to the other gives external expression to the struggle taking place within his soul, for his certainty of Jesus’ innocence increases at the same rate as does the political pressure forcing him to condemn Jesus.”

(Brown, John, 2:858)

John 18:33-35

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John 18:36

Jesus 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.”

I. The Nature of Christ's Kingdom

John 18:32, 36-37

Christ's Kingdom

1. Not of this World (v.36)

John 18:36

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John 12:12-15

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

Matthew 20:25-28

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Christ's Kingdom

1. Not of this World (v.36)

2. Is Concerned with Truth (v.37)

John 18:37

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.”

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Truth About His Identity

1. I am the bread of life (6:35)
2. I am the light of the world (8:12; 9:5)
3. I am the gate for the sheep (10:7, 9)
4. I am the good shepherd (10:14)
5. I am the resurrection & the life (11:25)
6. I am the way, the truth, & the life (14:6)
7. I am the true vine (15:1, 5)

Truth About Our Needs

1. You must be born again to see the Kingdom of God (3:3-7)
2. God loves the world and sent the Son so people can be saved (3:16-18)
3. Whoever believes in Him has eternal life instead of judgment & death (5:24)
4. Jesus satisfies spiritual thirst when we believe in Him & receive the Spirit (7:37-39)
5. Sin enslaves but the Son can set you free (8:34-38)
6. Jesus is able to guarantee eternal life to His sheep because He is God (10:28-30)
7. The path to glory is the path of suffering (12:23-26)

John 18:37

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“Disclosing the truth of God, of salvation and of judgment, was the principal way of making subjects, of exercising his saving kingship.”

(Carson, John, p. 595)

Christ's Kingdom

- 1. Not of this World (v.36)*
- 2. Is Concerned with Truth (v.37)*
- 3. Is Made Through Self-Sacrifice (v.32)*

“...there are exactly fifteen references in John’s two Passion chapters to Jesus’ *Kingdom* or to his being *King* and there are also exactly fifteen references to Jesus’ *Cross* or *crucifixion*. This multiplication of references add up, mathematically and spiritually, to the fact that John’s Gospel is presenting us with the seemingly contradictory but finally saving reality – *The Crucified King and His Kingdom.*”

(Bruner, *John*, p. 1081)

John 18:32

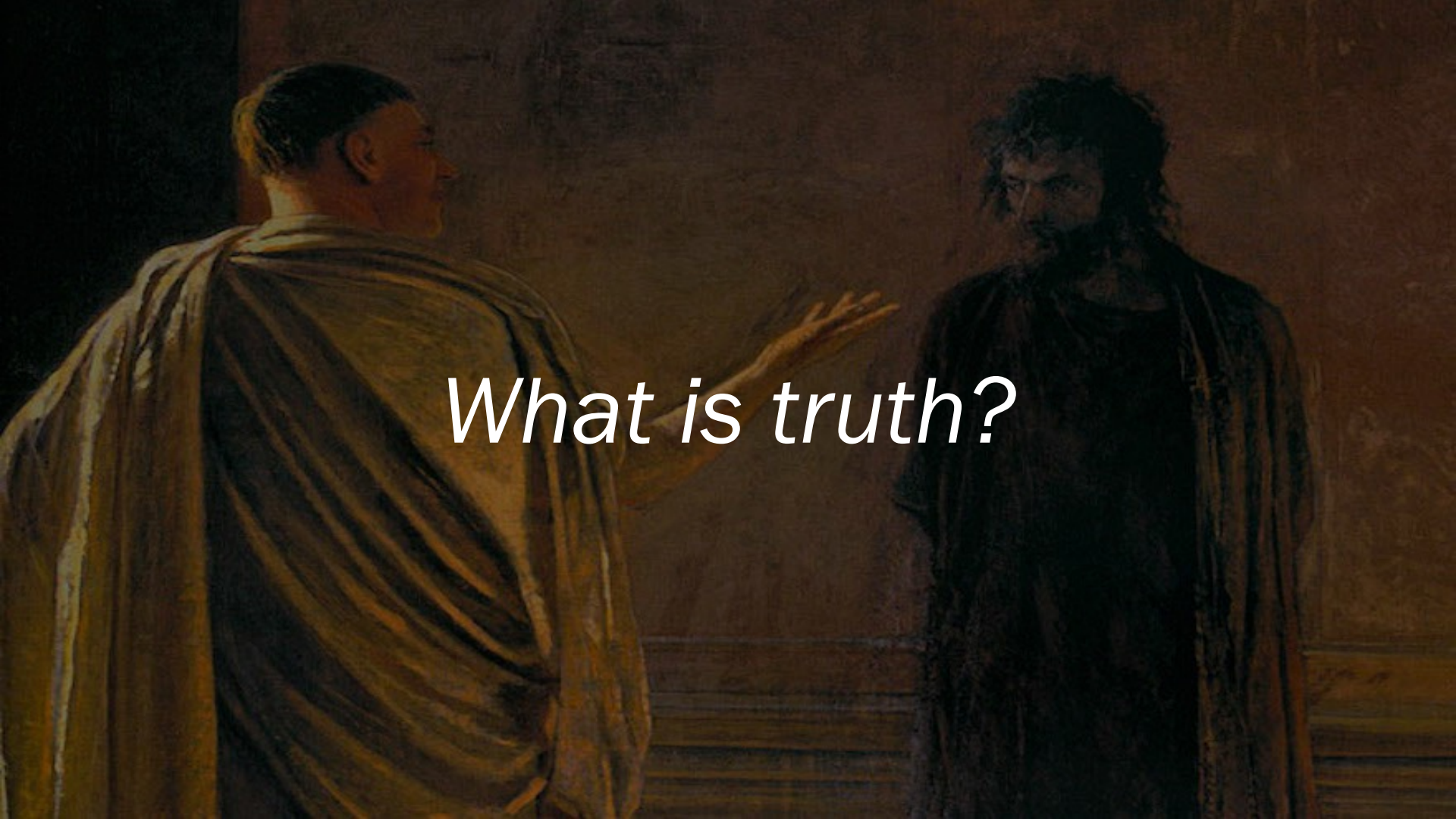
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John 3:14-15

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 12:31-33

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die



What is truth?

John 18:38-40

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. But 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?” They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

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“Barabbas continues to represent an alluring alternative, the fulfilling of this-worldly ambitions and dreams, the gratification of human lusts and hungers, the nationalist dream, the political kingdom. Jesus still stands before us also, offering his way of truth, a knowledge of the Father which, beginning in the valley of confession and repentance, leads forward along the pathway of daily surrender to him as Lord...”

(Milne, *John*, p. 269)

“Though on the surface less attractive, however, that choice frees those who make it to serve him in the world. It carries them at the last beyond the passing shadows of the earthly into the enduring order of the kingdom which will have no end. Who is our king, Jesus or Barabbas? The world still chooses. So must we all.”

(Milne, *John*, p. 269)

A scene from the movie 'The Passion of the Christ' showing Jesus bound in chains, surrounded by Roman soldiers in a stone doorway. The text 'Which Kingdom do you want?' is overlaid in white, italicized font.

Which Kingdom do you want?



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