

**Call To Worship.**

Psalm 8:1-9

Hymn 1. Doxology.

Hymn 2. Awesome God

**Announcements.**

Zechariah 8:3 (The City of Truth. The Future Kingdom of Jesus Christ on Earth)

Hymn 3. I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb

Hymn 4. Shout to the Lord.

Hymn 5. What Day that will be.

Offering.

**Sermon. John 18:36-40|Testifying to the Truth.**

**'Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 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 guilt in Him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews?" So they cried out again, saying "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber.'**

1. **'My kingdom is not of this world' – World. Κόσμος/kosmos.**
  - a. **If My kingdom** -that's the conditional clause. The action is predicated on the location of the kingdom.
  - b. **Not of this world-** the proposition is that the kingdom is not of this world, the condition is that if it was, His servants would fight political and religious authorities. **That's actually what Barabbas has done, he is an insurrectionist. The ironies in this trial are unparalleled.**
  - c. **So you are a king?** – Pilate states this in the form of a question, but the shows, that Pilate understands and accepts the propositional truth of Christ's kingship. Pilate just didn't care anything about that kingship and that kingdom because it had no relevance to his immediate life. Pilate was fine with Christ being the King of Heaven, so long as Heaven didn't interfere with his haven.

**It is the interesting thing about unjust people is that they are willing to come to terms with propositional truth, so long as that truth doesn't interfere with the injustices of their life.**

- d. **'you say correctly'** – In other words, you understand the truth. You know this!
- e. **'born, came to the world, to testify to the truth.'** – Jesus expounds more that He left His kingdom, was born in this world and did so for the purpose of testifying to the Truth.
- f. **'What is Truth?'** – Pilate responds again with the dismissive statement of what difference does that make?

**In this passage you have a problem. Either the world gets its way or justice gets its way.**

Do you think that we should get justice? Do we ever get justice in this world? Is justice really what we should get?

Justice would exonerate Christ and crucify Barabbas.

Here Barabbas is exonerated and Christ is crucified.

Let me say up front, that despite our claims that we want justice, I am here to say that we actually don't want justice. We think we do but we don't.

If justice were to happen to us that would be the biggest problem in our life.

**Q: What is Truth? The Truth is this, you don't want justice, you want grace.**

Justice means you're on trial. Justice means you're in trouble. Justice means the tallies are all set against you.

The reality is, we want to live by grace not by justice.

The Truth is our trials in the world are often far smaller than our triumphs in Christ.

The Truth is our suffering is often far smaller than our sins before God.

But we don't like to hear that Truth. We live to hear the message avoids that reality.

**a) World. The power is not in the world, the power is in the Word!**

World in the NT is usually the Greek work kosmos. It is related to a verb which means 'to set in order' or 'to adorn, decorate' – Consider this with regard to Christ's kingdom.

Q: Does it seem like here in this trial things are set in order properly?

Is it possible that I could win you over to the idea that though there are injustices they are actually set in order exactly how God has designed?

**b) John survey.**

Jn. 1:9 'the true Light came into the world'

Jn. 1:10 'He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him'

1:29 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'

3:16 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.'

This doesn't mean that Christ doesn't judge. Because He will judge. He will return to the earth with a sword coming out of His mouth.

Christ will judge. But what John is saying is that Christ's purpose in the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent wasn't judgement but salvation.

**3:17** 'For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.'

The world is actually judging Christ right now.

3:19 'This is the judgment that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone one who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.'

4:42 'this One is indeed the Savior of the world.'

The Samaritans saw and believed. Poor people, people disenfranchised from the world often see Christ easier because they are not blinded by their own injustices.

6:14 'This is truly the Prophet who is come into the world'

Now consider this, the people in Galilee acknowledge the propositional truth that Jesus was the Prophet, but they rejected His preaching. They only were willing to acknowledge Him when they got personal benefit out of Him.

6:51 'the bread which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh'

7:4, 7 'If you do these things show yourself to the world' "The world cannot hate you , but it hates Me because I testify of it that its deeds are evil'

Friends, Jesus' testimony of the Truth is why these people are so hateful that they are willing to put Him to death. This is a horrible injustice!!!

**Q:** How is it possible, that our Just, Loving, and All-Powerful God would allow this to happen to His Son? Can I tell you the reason why...So that justice doesn't happen to you. At this time, Christ is stepping into injustices, so that you do not have to experience justice, and you can experience God's Grace!

8:12 I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life.'

Jesus told this to the Pharisees and they responded 'Your testifying about Yourself, Your testimony is not true' – Well, if it wasn't true, then what difference does it make?

As Pilate says, "What is Truth?" If Truth is irrelevant, then why does it matter if Christ is telling it or not? – this is the irony of the world that we live in.

The paradox is that the very people who accuse you of wrong doing, exchange the truth for a lie! That's exactly what they are doing to Christ.

8:23 'You are from below, I am from above, you are of this world, I am not of this world.'

Christ is not of this world. His kingdom is not of this world. Christ is a pilgrim. We are pilgrims. Christ is highlighting that the world system is under the invisible, spiritual control of Satan.

8:26 'He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these things I speak to the world.'

9:5 'While I am in the world I am the Light of the world' -Healing the man born blind. Where will we find hope? In the world's system of justice? I can tell you it won't happen. The world's justice and its proponents are a walking, breathing contradiction. Where on one hand they contradict the truth, on the other hand they demand the truth, and out of their mouth the question; What is Truth!?

9:39 'Jesus said, 'For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.'

Hold on! I thought He said he didn't come to judge but to save? Well, you have to read the whole story. His first coming is to save, but His second coming is to judge.

10:36 'do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God?' – **Jesus to the Jews during the Good Shepherd discourse.**

**11:9 'are there not 12 hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.'**

There is only so much time available to come to accept the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. A 13 hour is not promised.

11:27 'Yes Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.' Martha's profession

That is what is required for salvation.

12:19 'the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him!'

That is how the truth works! If Satan doesn't obscure it with false religion then people would begin to be attracted to it, but Satan works through the means of false religion to disguise and hide the truth.

12:25 'He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.'

Persistent poverty from being rejected by the Satanic world system.

On-going injustices. Inverted value systems. Calling evil good and good evil.

This is the plight the disciples will have to endure. But the promise is eternal life.

12:31 'Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out

12:46 'I have come as a Light in to the world so that everyone who believes in Me will not walk in darkness'

12:47 'If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.'

13:1 'Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the father, having loved His own who were in the world'

14:17 'the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, but it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.'

14:19 'After a little while the world will no longer see Me

14:22 'what has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?'

**14:27** Peace I leave you

**14:30** the ruler of the world is coming

**14:31** so the world will know that I love the Father

**15:18** If the world hates you

**15:19** If you were of the world the world would love its own

**16:8** He will convict the world of sin

**16:11** the ruler of this world has been judgement

**16:20** you will weep and lament but the world will rejoice, but your grief will be turned to joy

**16:21** the joy brought into the world through a baby/new life

**16:28** I came from the Father into the world, I am leaving the world

**16:33** In the world you have tribulation but take courage I have overcome the world

**17:5** Glory with the Father before the world was made

**17:6** You gave me out of the world/the disciples

**17:9** I do not ask/prayer on behalf of the world.

**17:11** I am no longer in the world, yet they are in the world – kept them!

**17:13** I speak this so in the world so that they may have joy

**17:14** the world has hated them

**17:15** do not ask/pray You take them out of the world, but keep them from the evil one

**17:16** they are not of this world, even as I am not of the world

**17:18** You sent Me into the world, I sent them into the world

**17:21** that they may be One, so that the world may believe you sent Me -Christian unity!

**17:23** perfected them in Unity, so the world knows

**24** You loved Me before the foundation of the world

**25** the world has not known You

**18:20** I have spoken openly to the world (Sanhedrin trial)

**36** My kingdom is not of this world

**37** I have come into this world to testify to the truth

**John has had a lot to say about the world. The only clear take away is the Jesus is other worldly, His kingdom is other worldly, and His disciples are now in the world but not of the world.**

**Let me present at question to consider before we look at Barabbas, Pilate, and Jesus.**

**The Premise:** You have the ability to make choices, BUT, just because you have the ability to make choices does not make you Sovereign over your life.

Q: How so? Well, let's say you make the choices to do right, and you get wrong.

OR, let's say you make the choice to do wrong, and you do not get wrong as a result you get right.

In other words, you do good and get punished, and do bad and do not get punished. Because that is what happens here between Jesus and Barabbas.

**Here's the question: How do you reconcile, living in a world, where it is possible that you could do things that are right and receive things that are wrong AND that there are people who do what is wrong and do not get punished in real time for their wrong doing? Are these people getting off the hook from God's Sovereign decrees?**

**Consider this;**

**'Does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory' Rom. 9:21-23**

In a world where the Son of God is treated unjustly; Do we believe that the sons of God will be treated justly?

In a world where the Son of God has no place to lay His head; Do we believe that the sons of God will bask in leisure and luxury?

It is true that we experience injustice, in like manner as Christ. But how else would God form you and I if there were not times of injustice that we have to endure with patience? I can't think of another way.

**John Ploughman's Talk: Plain Advice for Plain People**

**'The disciples of a patient Savior should be patient themselves' (few things make a person develop patience as injustice) 'To be poor is not always pleasant, but worse things than that happened at sea. Small shoes are apt to pinch, but not if you have a small foot; if we have little means it will be well to have little desires. Poverty is no shame, but being discontented with it is.'**

**'In some things, the poor are better off than the rich; for if a poor man has to seek meat for his stomach, he is more likely to get what he is after than the rich man who seeks a stomach for his meat. Plenty makes dainty, but hunger finds no fault with the cook.'**

It is the injustices of this life that make us hungry for God's grace! The poor and mistreated best understand God's grace because they have the biggest appetite for it!

The Sanhedrin, Pilate, Barabbas, these men are fat on the world and starved on the Savior.

The world has a way of making its own 'entreaties, prayers, and petitions' –

**Q: How else will God make you patient without pressing you with injustices, and frustrations?**

**We often complain about the injustices and frustrations of our life, but willfully sidestep our own infractions. This leads us to long for God's grace.**

**'love is patient, love is kind' 1 Cor. 13 – Q: Do we expect God to develop some alternate plan in our life.**

Do we expect God to give of us a love that requires no patience, and to arrive at patience that require no endurance of injustice?

Do we expect God to give us a loving kindness, through a series of life's circumstances where we had never to deal with unkind and unloving circumstances?

Do we expect the dumbbells to lift themselves or the boots to walk their own miles? Sheer hypocrisy! – because that is the nuts and bolts of the false gospel. To desire the results, even expect the results, without the labor.

**That's thing about honest men.** Honest men will spend 6 days a week doing honest work, you can't expect them to commit to honest work 6 days a week and fantasy on Sunday.

The Gospel work is honest work as well. The Truth is not a fantasy.

**What value is the winter coat if there is no winter?**

**What value is the Hind's feet if there are no obstacles to scale?**

**Q: Do we live in a world where God gives His beloved pleasure after pleasure? OR does God give His beloved regular injustices so that we would have a greater desire for His justice, and a greater desire for His grace, a greater desire for Heaven. A greater desire for His kingdom to come and His will be done.**

**Q: If God designed a place for His people that is perfect; why would His people expect perfection in a different place?**

**Heaven is not here! 'My kingdom is not of this world' John 18:36**

**The trouble for us is that we have always lived in this imperfect place. Our entire existence has been bound up in the burden of brokenness.**

**What a deception to live in a world...**

Where there is the belief of Heaven but no hearty hope for it

Where there is a presumption of Hell, but no hesitation to walk right toward it.

Where there is a Christ but little care to come to Him

Where there is a folklore about the Devil and no desire to declare his designs.

**Q: Do we live in a world where there is justice? Or should we expect perpetual injustice until we are brought home?**

**For example, Is Barabbas getting off easy? Is Pilate going to get away with this scheme?**

The Christian faith and experience must always come back to its basic fundamentals. And the basic spiritual fundamental are this; Truth, Love, and Obedience.

Truth without love is cruel. Love without truth is criminal. And Truth and Love without Obedience to Truth and Love is sin.

To know the truth and not live the truth is sin. **'To know what to do and not do it; that thing is sin' James 4:17**

**To know the truth and not love the truth is the basis of all sin.**

The type of sin that would let a known murder off in order to appease a crowd.

The type of sin that would allow a man who is guilty of murder during a political insurrection against your own government and leadership but turn a blind eye to that in order to pull political strings with another group.

But, as Christ says to Pilate 'the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin' John 19:11

Q: Is Jesus talking about Judas or Caiaphas? It does matter, Jesus is saying that the sin of false religion that is willing to lie about the truth

The Truth, by the way, is not merely a Proposition, the Truth is a Person.

How much easier it is now to make the Truth objective! Yes, the truth is found in ideals, BUT, the ideal way to understand the ideals are known the Person who made the idea of Truth concrete.

**'I AM the way, the truth, and the life.'**

Even still, Some people might say that the Bible does not offer a systematic account of the nature of the truth. BUT, I disagree with this.

For example, a person might say, well, the Bible doesn't teach you that **2+2=4**, and, it is true that **2+2=4**.

**Obstinance is just as much rebellion to truth as deliberate ignorance to truth is!**

The Sanhedrin is a great example of rigid obstinance, and Pilate and Barabbas are a great example of deliberately ignoring the truth and their responsibility to uphold it!

Those who are so obstinate, or those who would so deliberately ignore the truth, but will **'get the due penalty of their error' Rom. 1:27**... **'they suppress the truth in unrighteousness'**



Yes, it is true that you will not find a chapter and verse that tells you that  $2+2=4$ . Well you can actually teach Elementary math with the Bible.

If you read the first two chapters on Monday, and the next two chapters on Tuesday, and I ask you on Wednesday how many chapters you read, you can say, 'Well I read two on Monday and two on Tuesday, so if I put those chapters together I have read 4 altogether.'

Someone else might say, well yeah, that's all well and good for elementary math but what about something like algebra...

You bring in a number and a letter into the equation. And I would say, you mean kind of like, there are things man knows and there are things God knows?

Calculus and derivatives and that's when you say, exactly that's why the disciples said to Jesus, '**teach us how to pray**' – to be quite honest there's some things in life that you do not even need to learn in order to live a meaningful life in Christ!

And that's called wisdom! Because you and I don't need to spend our time learning things that God has not necessarily needed us to know or learn in order to love and obey Him!

It is very possible to learn all of the street smarts and the scholastic smarts of the world, but lose your soul for lack of knowledge of Divine Truth.

BUT, it will be impossible for you to read the Bible and have the take away that God is not in control of all things. And the only reason that  $2+2=4$  even equals for is because God has created a world where that is the case.

**The Perspicuity of Scripture. There is a clean understand of truth found in Scripture that is not unclear.**

**Q: What is Truth?**

Pilate asks this question, NOT because he wants an answer, because Pilate has already arrived at his conclusion. And Pilates conclusion that there is no Absolute Truth, has already created the pattern in his life that allows him to live a life of injustice.

**Where Truth is relative, justice becomes irrelevant!**

**Psalm 37. Example of injustice to the Psalmist.**

**2 Sam. 16:6-8. David says God can even work good through injustice.**

**Truth is God's truth. It's that simple. All Truth is God's truth.**

**2. Barabbas. A Worldly man.**

**a. The Pathology of Barabbas.**

The cheap grace of being let off the hook from your sin without repentance is not a blessing but a blindside to beware of for future wrath.

Barabbas is not a man forgiven of sin; Barabbas is a man that is living with an axe over his head.

People love to get things for free. They love to believe that there are things to be gained without a price.

Nothing is free. Everything has an associated payment.

Barabbas was not set free by forgiveness and grace; Barabbas was handed over to Satan.

Q: Where do you see that in the text? Everywhere!

Ex. 4:21 'LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart.'

Ex. 7:3 'I will harden his heart'

Ex. 9:12 'the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh'

Ex. 10:20 'the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart'

Ex. 10:27 'the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart'

11:10, 14:4,7

**'God disciplines those whom He loves' Heb. 12:5**

**'God has mercy on whom He has mercy and hardens whom He hardens'**

**'Behold, blessed is the one whom god reproves' Job 5:17**

**'My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof' Pro. 3:11**

**'for the LORD reproves whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights' Pro. 3:12**

To be blind to justice is not grace. Grace is recognizing the need for justice and instead of providing justice offering mercy.

This was not mercy to Barabbas; it is delayed judgement.

God disciplines His sons and daughters because He loves them and wants to secure a future for them.

### **3. Pilate. A Worldly Man.**

#### **a. The Pathology of Pilate.**

Pilate has returned to him the injustice of his ways. 2 years later the Emperor Caligula demands Pilate to commit suicide for perverted the Roman justice system by putting people to death through crucifixion without warranted evidence.

What is Truth? Truth is, that the Truth will be revealed in Time. Time and Truth reveal all things.

And as the

#### 4. What is Truth?

##### a. Truth is a proposition.

**The proposition is that there is Truth.**

Pilate dismisses the very proposition. In essence, denying the very rest that Christ came to the earth.

**'For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth.' John 18:37**

The proposition of the Truth is the theory, the hypothesis, the argument that defends Jesus' life and ministry.

To whimsically question, 'What is Truth?' – Is to deny the very life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

##### b. Truth is a person.

But the Truth is not just a proposition it is a person.

The truth is not just a hypothesis, it became a human.

The Truth is Jesus Christ is the fullness of truth.

##### c. Truth is a matter of staying in the propositions of that person.

#### 5. Testifying to the Truth.

**All Truth is God's truth.**

**Friends, I could care less if I ever Pastor the largest church in town. BUT, I will tell you this, I will always Preach the BIGGEST GOD in town.**

The God that we worship here is the God of ALL TRUTH.

The God that we worship here is the God of ALL CREATION.

The God that we worship here is the God that is above EVERYTHING. 'He is God and there is no other.'

The God we worship is not mighty, He is Almighty.

The God we worship is not great, He is the Greatest.

The God we worship is not excellent, He is the Most Excellent.

**God is bigger than us. God is more important than us. AND, even still, God loves us.**

**'who is man that you are mindful of him' Ps. 8**

**Our God is an Awesome God and He reigns from Heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, our God is an Awesome God.**

**And Pilate asks, 'What is Truth?'**

**This is Truth.**

**That I Am that I Am.**

**I AM the Bread of Life**

**I AM the Light of the World**

**I AM the Door of the sheep**

**I AM the Resurrection and the Life**

**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life**

**I AM the True Vine**

**The Biggest Problem in your life is that God isn't the Biggest Thing in your life.**

The Problem with most Christians and most churches is that their God isn't big enough to solve their problems.

Sure their god can help them make some friends. Their god can help their pay their mortgage.

Their god can help them be nice to others.

But their god is not transforming souls.

**Does the church just preach mistakes.** Friends, I don't need to be saved from my mistakes. I've got family members that help me with mistakes.

Salvation is not a matter of horseshoes and hand grenades. Good enough isn't going to cut it.

**Well,** you can take that god and throw him in the garbage. Because when I die, I've got friends that I'll have for eternity, I've already got a paid for mansion by the Divine Carpenter, and My God is so nice, and my Savior was such a gentleman, He didn't even leave the whole process up to me.

It was said of John Hooker than when he preached, he preached a God that was so big, Hooker could of took the king of England and placed him in his breast pocket. **Q:** When we see the Pilates and the Barabbas of this world, do we pray to a Big God, and trust in deliverance from a Grand Savior?

**My Savior, Jesus Christ,** came down from Heaven, was born as a man, lived perfectly as a man, died as if he was a wretched sinner like he lived as me, He was nailed the to the cross that I was supposed to be nailed to.

He was punished for the sin that I was supposed to be punished for. Yet, without reservation He looked down from Heaven and said you are mine.

You will follow Me. I will be your God, you will obey Me, and He even opened the door to Heaven for me.

That is My God and that is not My Truth, that Is HIS Truth.

What is Truth? Truth is Jesus Christ and the only people that can hear the Truth of Jesus Christ are the people that are His people.

Prayer.

**Benediction.**

Rom. 8:37-39

**Closing Prayer.**

**Small Group Questions.**

- 1a. What does John and Jesus have to say about the 'world' in his Gospel?
- 2.a How do Pilate and Barabbas represent people who live in the injustices of this world? Are Pilate and Barabbas vessels of mercy or vessels of wrath? Ref. Rom. 9
- 3a. Jesus' purpose for coming to the earth was to 'testify to the Truth'; How does the truth of Jesus give testimony to the injustices of this world?

**Practical Application**

- 1b. How does your relationship with the world system measure up as a disciple? Do you struggle to fit in, does everything work out well?
- 2b. What is the difference between God's grace and the cheap grace of the world? Does God's grace have a measure of Godly sorrow/repentance with it?
- 3b. When it comes to telling the truth are you able to live this through your actions or do you recoil and shy away from standing for the truth of Christ?