

Pastor Jim Jackson, 8/2/26
Days With Jesus, Day 54—Judging the Truth
John 18:28-40

The Jewish leaders want to KILL the Truth

After undergoing a Jewish trial, Jesus was led to Pilate's headquarters at 6 a.m. for a Roman trial. Ironically, the Jews wouldn't enter a Gentile house so to not be ceremonially defiled, but instead chose to be morally defiled by murdering Jesus. *When you can't handle the truth, you want it gone* (John 3:20)! In the OT, those who blasphemed God were to be stoned to death. Anyone hung from a tree, like crucifixion, was considered cursed by God (Lev. 24:10-23; Deut. 21:22, 23). As they were likely shocked how easy it was to get a disciple to betray Jesus, arrest him, and get him on a capital punishment trial in the early morning, they likely figured God was on their side. *Be careful your self-righteousness isn't self-deception!*

Pilate QUESTIONS the Truth

At the trial, Pilate questions Jesus about why he was arrested. As a judge, he should already know this information. As Pilate didn't know, it made this trial illegal as well. When asked if he was a King, so as not to lie but not to give Pilate reason to condemn him as an insurrectionist, Jesus ingeniously and indirectly confirms it by saying 'You are the one that said it.' *With God, the pathway of truth can be outwardly chaotic but inwardly peaceful* (Is. 26:3)! Showing that if he was leading a rebellion his disciples would be rioting, Jesus says his mission was to bring spiritual truth to the world, not political maneuvering (John 14:6). As Pilate is uninterested in debating truth, he proclaims, 'What is truth?' and leaves without an answer. *If you are committed to false, it doesn't matter if you stare at the Truth!*

The people REJECT the Truth

After questioning, Pilate goes to proclaim Jesus' innocence. But seeing they're so close to Jesus being crucified, the leaders threaten a riot during Passover. *When the truth isn't on your side, you must lie, manipulate, and cause chaos to win!* Hating to be exploited, and trying to free Jesus, he offers to release a Jew arrested for murder and insurrection instead. To Pilate's dismay, the Jews choose Barabbas (Heb. *bar abba*, 'son of the father') instead of the perfect 'Son of the Father' (Mark 15:7). Despite showing himself for years to be their Messiah, when he didn't meet their demands, they rejected him. *When people are unstable, find your stability in God!*