

the gospel of

JOHN

all intents and purposes

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 10: A KINGDOM NOT OF THIS WORLD

Read the Text

John 18:28-40

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters.^[a] 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. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹ 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." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 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." 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?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.”³⁹ 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?”⁴⁰ They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.^[b]

Main Point

This passage takes us through Pilate’s interrogation of Jesus’ kingship. Through Jesus’ answers, we see that ***there is a tension of two kingdoms: The Kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of the world and we (and Pilate) are left to choose between the two.*** What happens when we choose each kingdom? ***When we choose the kingdom of the world, our desires become our idols and people become objects to use.*** We never get to experience true joy because all of our hope is based on our circumstances. ***Embracing the Kingdom of Christ, however, provides the only way to true joy.*** It’s never-changing, and remains true no matter what our circumstances happen to be. We can rely on Jesus and His Word because Jesus is truth.

Reflect Together

1. ***Who is God?*** Jesus is the Truth. What does that mean to you? How could you explain that to a non-believer?
2. ***What has He done?*** Unlike worldly truth, Jesus’ truth never changes. It gives us deeper joy, it frees us up to love others well, and it gives us a deeper purpose. How have you experienced these results of Jesus’ truth in your life?
3. ***Who are you?*** How does your life reflect that you follow the Kingdom of Christ? How does it reflect the kingdom of the world?
4. ***What are you to do?*** What’s a specific step you would like to take to follow the Kingdom of Christ more in your life?

Abide Together

Pray together as an MC about what came up during discussion.
Pray that you would grow in following the Kingdom of Christ.

Mission Together

Who in your life needs to hear more about following the Kingdom of Christ, and how would you like to share that with them? Easter is just a few weeks away! It can be as simple as an invitation to attend the Easter gathering at Doxa!