

- In our country, we may not fully understand what it means to have a king over us ... We do have an acquaintance with royalty – I can think of one family dynasty, the Kennedys, that are often seen as American royalty ... **But we don't know what it's like for King Charles to rule over us** ... And actually, as the years have progressed, even the ways in which a king like Charles reigns has changed ... According to [University College London](#), "The King reigns, but he does not rule. Ruling is done by his government, and as head of state in the UK the King is constitutionally obliged to follow the government's advice" ... The king reigns, but he does not rule ... And in some regard, we can apply this to what is happening here: **Jesus is King, but the people are not interested in Him being king, especially being king over them, nor are they interested in Him ruling over them in any sort of way**
- Mark divides the day into 5 periods – 1) around 6am, 2) 9am, 3) 12pm, 4) 3pm, 5) around 6pm ... There is an intentional hand moving things along, and not haphazardly ... We see this as the trial of Jesus before Pilate unfolds
- **Pilate** was an iron-fisted leader, who was violent, and at times merciless ... The historian **Philo** wrote that Pilate had a habit of murdering people who were "**untried and uncondemned**" ... Though Pilate was committed to the interests of Rome, he was even more committed to fulfilling his own selfish interests – pushing through life trying to do so
 - While the gospels reveal a similar picture of Pilate, I think they also reveal man in search of himself ... [Vs15](#) ... Pilate had the authority to release both men, he did not have to follow a custom he made with the Jews ... Nor did Pilate need a trial to murder someone, according to his previous actions ... Instead, the gospels record Pilate giving in to what the crowd demands ([Lu23:24](#)), in fear of a riot starting ([Mat27:24](#)); Further, Pilate is afraid of disappointing Caesar ([Jo19:12-13](#)) ... Then there are Pilate's attempts at getting Jesus released, saying that he has found no fault in Him ([Lu23:14-15](#)) ... All of this is telling of Pilate: as brutal as he behaves, as selfish as he may be, at this moment, Pilate is at odds with himself ... He is trying to hold onto position and authority, for if he loses them then he has lost himself ... Yet, encountering Jesus is challenging him
 - [Vs12](#) ... **Isn't that the foundational question Christianity poses to humanity** ... **What will you do with Jesus?** ... It is a question that all of humanity needs to answer; a question that all religions need to answer ... It's the great question one must answer in life: what will you do with Jesus ... If we believe that the accounts of Jesus in the gospels are historical, that He actually lived, died and rose again; if we believe that He is God and Savior of all, then we cannot escape answering this question – either in this life or before His throne ... And the answer that we give will affect how we live day to day ... **The King reigns, does He rule in your life**
- The religious leaders, Mark writes, handed Jesus over to Pilate ... The same word Mark used when Judas betrayed Jesus ... **Brooks**, "**carries both the idea of something sinister and evil and of something done in accordance with the will of God**" ([10, 15](#)) ... When they had delivered Jesus to Pilate, the charge was turned from religious to political – [Lu23:2](#) ... That Jesus was the Messiah, the King of the Jews, as He attested, set Him against Tiberius – the Roman Emperor ... Therefore, Jesus should face certain death for inciting people to rebel against Tiberius
 - **Moule**, "Jesus, who is indeed king of the Jews in a deeply spiritual sense, has refused to lead a political uprising. Yet now, condemned for blasphemy by the Jews because of His claims, He is accused by them also before Pilate by being precisely what He has disappointed the crowds for failing to be – a political insurgent." ... He has been betrayed in part by one of His disciples for failing to be the Messiah the Jewish people had been longing for ... But since day one, Jesus has always spoken of a Kingdom not of this world – the Kingdom of God is nothing like any kingdom that has existed or will ever exist ... [Jo18:36-37](#)
 - What truth is He talking about – the truth about who God is, what God has said and has promised; Christ is the embodiment of truth, just as He is the embodiment of life, and God Himself ([Jo14:6](#)) ... The kingdoms of this world will all bow to the Kingdom of God ... Though it may look like the Truth of God is being undone by society, God's Truth will always endure beyond any manufactured truth of this world ([Jo1:5](#))

- I used to read Pilate's remark to Jesus, "What is truth?" as being sarcastic or dismissive ... But as I studied this week, I read them different ... I think that Pilate was seeking an honest answer ... I can imagine Pilate and Jesus just looking at each other in silence ... He is asking about what truth is, and standing before him is what truth is ... There are legends of Pilate years later becoming a Christian, and I'm not sure the stories are true ... But in this moment, he is so close to the finish line ... Yet, he stops short ... Again, what you do with the Person and Work of Jesus Christ has consequences ... The King reigns, does He rule in your life
- In an attempt to release Jesus, another prisoner is offered and demanded of – Barabbas ... He is a violent man of rebellion ... In all likelihood, Barabbas would be headed to the cross on this day, but his fate changes at the cry of an angry crowd who are calling for Jesus to be crucified ... This is not the same crowd that welcomed Him in as the King six days ago ... This is a crowd that has been easily provoked by religious leaders who are bent on killing the Man who claims to be the King of the Jews (10-11) ...
 - In defeat, and at odds with himself, Pilate frees the guilty and condemns the innocent ... And this according to the plan that was set into motion before the foundations of the world were even laid (Ep1:4-5) ... 1Pe3:18 ... Jo19:10-11, earlier in Jo10:17-18
 - I wonder, did Barabbas realize what was taking place ... Did he follow along to see what would become of Jesus ... Did he return to his old ways, or did he one day turn to Christ for salvation? ... Do we realize that Barabbas represents you and me ... As I said last week, we are part of the rebellious ones that Is53:12 speaks about, and that Jesus came to seek and save ... There are some who wrongly blame the Jewish people for killing Jesus; that is an unfair, and dangerous, belief to hold ... All of humanity, because of our sin, crucified Jesus ... The people assembled here were brought together to carry out the will of God, so that through their actions, the salvation that Jesus would secure would then be brought forth to the world
 - Acts3:13-20 ... The King reigns, does He rule in your life ... In his book, Surprised by Joy, CS Lewis tells a story of arriving in the city of Oxford with a great sense of anticipation ... He got out of the rail station and mistakenly began to walk in the wrong direction; instead of walking into Oxford, Lewis was walking out ... He didn't realize this, and describes that he was struck by just how ordinary the city was ... He thought it was going to be much better, describing the shops and the fascia of the buildings as being dreadfully plain ... It was when he reached the edge of Oxford that he realized what happened ... He turned around and he looked back, and he saw all the spires and all of the beauty that constitutes the town of Oxford ... And in telling this story, Lewis said this was an allegory of his whole life: walking away in the wrong direction, and finally being turned around and seeing the beauty and the wonder of who Jesus is and what He had done
 - The King reigns, does He rule in your life – He does in fact rule your life ... We have a wrong understanding of a King in this world, and I think we all at times project this onto Christ Jesus ... So, that while He reigns as a King, we limit how He rules in our life ... Jesus reigns and rules, no matter if we allow Him or not