



THE TRUTH ABOUT THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

On the verge of His death, Jesus told Pilate the purpose of His birth: *to bear witness to the truth*. Jesus left heaven, took on flesh and blood, was despised and rejected, died a sacrificial death, rose again... to testify to the truth. In the midst of our relativistic society, Jesus invites us to embrace Truth.

READ THE TEXT: John 18:28-38

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

³³So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus 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?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The ministry of Jesus bore witness to the truth (v37). How so?
2. What do you make of the claim that there can't be just one religion?
3. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (14:6). How do you reconcile that with the popular view of religious pluralism?
4. *Cultural Pluralism* is acceptance and celebration of different cultures, peoples, races, and religions. This is good and necessary. *Metaphysical pluralism*, on the other hand, takes it a step further and accepts as true all the ideas, convictions, and worldviews of those people and religions. How can we as Christians live as good, generous citizens (Rom 12:18) while not throw the baby out with the bath water and take it as far as metaphysical pluralism? What does that look like?
5. In *Total Truth*, Nancy Pearcey writes about a construct called the “upper and lower story”. The upper story is for values and the lower story is for facts. Faith has been put into the upper story which is “fine for you but not for me”. This is why faith is seen as a private affair and not something to try and convince others about. And yet Christianity isn't merely a feeling it's a fact. Do you live as though Christianity is *true* and the gospel is good *news*?

CONCLUSION

Jesus was born to bear witness to the Truth. Let's make our lives count for the great cause of the Gospel as well.

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Each share the name of an individual that you would like to see encounter the truth about Jesus. Pray for them by name.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

