

WHAT IS TRUTH?

John 18:33-38 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 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." 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." 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.

What is truth?

- **It's found in Jesus.** There is no objective truth outside of Jesus. How does one come to any concrete conclusion without a foundation? It's completely subjective. One man's opinion is no better than another. **John 12:44-50**. What's unique about Jesus? He holds authority.
- **There is right and wrong.** Listen, not every passage in the Bible is black and white. There are passages we have to dig into and we may not always be in total agreement, but that's not a fair representation of the word as a whole. God's word is overall clear and can be understood. **Matthew 7:13-20**. It's not for the scholarly only. It's not one truth for you and another for me. If we couldn't understand it . . . how could it equip us (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)? The problem isn't that it's unclear, but they don't like what they're hearing (**2 Timothy 4:2-4**). Remember, Paul addressed every excuse for rejecting Christ in **Romans 10**. They couldn't say they didn't hear it. They couldn't say they didn't understand it either. Understanding wasn't the problem - it was disobedience to the truth.

What do you fight for?

- **Is it the right kingdom?** **Matthew 23:13-15**. It happens to religious folk. They were sure of the fight, but were dead wrong. At least it was centered around Jehovah and His people! We get distracted with the physical kingdom. We fight for physical freedoms more than we humble ourselves to God's kingdom. There is freedom in Christ, but it doesn't always look peachy. We need to be fighting to bring people

into the correct kingdom. It can be a difficult balance - knowing how to hate sin but still engage with sinners, but it must be done and done well.

- **Who do you want to be known as?** This has been discouraging, because I've seen this too many times. I'll hear others get upset or speak up when it comes to politics, but where is the volume, the confidence and the passion in God's kingdom? When you get into work - who are you? When you're around others - what should they expect? What do you know more about? Are preachers the only ones who should be equipped?
- **We must BE this way around one another.** We need encouragement. We need to know what we're getting when we're together. It's not just for outsiders, but inside. In fact, it needs to begin with us and then work out. Let's consider what our conversations center around.

What do you know?

- **Do your own thinking?** Isn't that what Jesus was getting at? What do you believe, Pilate? Are you saying this on your own or parroting what you've heard? It's herd mentality that condemns Jesus to the cross. It's herd mentality, many times, that pulls us into political and worldly pits.
- **Don't be hypocritical.** We get on to others for sheep mentality, but can be just as guilty. It's not true to say you're not influenced. We all are. However, we have an obligation and expectation from God to think critically. I know what I believe . . . what you believe? If I can't articulate, by scripture in context, what I believe . . . then I don't really believe it. Would you feel comfortable if someone asked you, "What do you believe about . . . " and you answered, "Ask Shawn and you'll have our answer!" That should make you cringe. I preach based on my understanding of God's word. That doesn't mean it's your understanding. It doesn't resolve you of your responsibility. Be a Berean!