

What Is Truth?

(John 18:37-38)

Introduction:

1. In our lesson we are concentrating on a question that Pilate asked Jesus in John 18:38 --
"What is truth?"
2. Let us begin by determining . . .

Discussion:

- I. WHAT PROMPTED PILATE TO ASK JESUS THIS QUESTION?
 - A. Jesus had been arrested and taken into custody.
 - B. Jesus was first taken before Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas.
 - C. Jesus was next taken before Caiaphas the high priest.
 - D. Jesus was accused of blasphemy, and He was judged to be guilty of death.
 - E. Jesus was taken before Pilate so he could give the execution order.
 - F. During Pilate's interrogation, Jesus made 2 statements in vs.37 about the truth.
 1. He came to *"bear witness unto the truth."*
 2. *"Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."*
 - G. Pilate then asked Jesus, *"What is truth?"*
 - H. Jesus did not answer Pilate's question; however, . . .
- II. JESUS HAD MUCH TO SAY ABOUT "TRUTH" DURING HIS MINISTRY
 - A. (John 17:17) Jesus identified God's Word as truth, and He said that God sanctifies through His truth.
 - B. (John 14:6) Jesus identified Himself as *"the truth."*
 - C. (John 8:31-32) Jesus said that we can know the truth, and it will make us free.
 - D. (John 4:23-24) Jesus said that true worshippers worship the Father *"in spirit and in truth."*
 - E. While Jesus had much to say about truth, we are especially interested in the fact that . . .
- III. TRUTH IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ARMOR OF GOD
 - A. In Ephesians 6 Christians are instructed twice to put on *"the whole armor of God"* (vs.11a, 13a).
 - B. Putting on the armor of God will enable Christians to *"stand against the wiles of the devil"* (vs.11b, vs.13b).
 - C. Our enemy is Satan.
 1. (John 8:44) Jesus identified Satan as *"a liar."*
 2. (Revelation 12:9) Satan is identified as a deceiver.
 3. Satan demonstrated his ability to lie and deceive in his dealings with Eve (Genesis 3:1-5).
 - D. According to Ephesians 6:14a, the Christian soldier is to have his *"loins girt about with truth."*

E. To be able to withstand Satan, Christians must be armed with "truth."

F. Let us turn our attention to . . .

IV. 3 SPECIFIC AREAS IN WHICH WE MUST NOT BE DECEIVED

A. We must not be deceived about who is going to heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

1. Regardless of what man says, "*the unrighteous*" will not inherit God's kingdom.
2. "*The unrighteous*" include those who participate in the sins listed.
3. Another list, including liars, is given in Revelation 21:8.
4. The good news is that we can be cleansed of these sins (1 Corinthians 6:11).
5. We learn from Acts 18:8 how the people in Corinth were cleansed.
6. To be saved so we can go to heaven, we must obey the Gospel and remain faithful (Revelation 2:10).

B. We must not be deceived about evil influence (1 Corinthians 15:33).

1. The evil associates under consideration are identified in vs.12.
2. We are to test the teaching we hear (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11).
3. We must receive the truth, but we must reject that which is false.

C. We must not be deceived about the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7).

1. (vs.8) Your eternal destiny will be determined by the way you sow.
2. Let us follow the instructions given in vs.9-10.

Conclusion:

1. Was truth important to Jesus?
 - a. He came to "*bear witness unto the truth*" (John 18:37).
 - b. If Jesus had denied being the Son of God, Pilate may have released Him.
 - c. Rather than deny the truth, Jesus died a horrible death on the cross.
 - d. Jesus considers the truth to be a matter of utmost importance.
2. Have you allowed God to sanctify you through His truth?
3. If you have, is truth a part of your armor?