

Let Us Answer Pilate's Question
(John 18:28-40)

Introduction:

1. In these verses John recorded a number of questions that Pilate asked.
 - a. Pilate asked the Jews a question in vs.29b.
 - b. Pilate asked Jesus several questions in vs.33b, vs.35, vs.37a, and vs.38a.
 - c. Pilate asked the Jews another question in vs.39b.
2. In our lesson we are concentrating on the question that Pilate asked Jesus in vs.38 -- "*What is truth?*"
3. Let us begin by examining . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE SITUATION THAT PROMPTED PILATE TO ASK 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 order for execution.
 - 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).
 4. We are to resist Satan (James 4:7b).
 - 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."

Conclusion:

1. We have examined a number of passages that answer Pilate's question: "*What is truth?*"
2. 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.
3. Have you allowed God to sanctify you through His truth?
4. If you have, is truth a part of your armor?