

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?