

## 9. What is truth?

### John 18:28-40

<sup>28</sup> Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

<sup>30</sup> "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected. <sup>32</sup> This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

<sup>34</sup> "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

<sup>35</sup> "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

<sup>37</sup> "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

<sup>38</sup> "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup> But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews?'"

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

## 1. Truth has been revealed

### ▲ Jesus constitutes God's truth

#### ▼ Jesus is the first Word

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.

#### ▼ Jesus is the final Word

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

#### ▼ Jesus is the faithful witness and way to the Father

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness,

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

### ▲ Jesus came to communicate God's truth

#### ▼ He came to testify to truth

John 18:37 Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

#### ▼ He claimed to tell the truth

Matthew 5:18 I tell you the truth [78 times in the Gospels]

#### ▼ He communicated truth

Hebrews 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

#### ▼ He was confirmed as a truth teller by his towering triumph

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

## 2. Truth has been rejected

### ▲ This is a world of wicked rebellion

Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

### ▲ There are waves and waves of relativism

Proverbs 21:2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.

Isaiah 59:14 So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. <sup>15</sup> Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

### ▲ There is a wondering about reality

John 8:36 "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

## 3. Truth has been received

### ▲ The Bible is authoritative truth

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed

### ▲ The Bible is ageless and applicable truth

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### ▲ The Bible is alive and active truth

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

1. The Bible is a book of historically factual detail, as is affirmed by secular history and continuing archaeological discoveries.
2. The Bible is a book of supernatural prophecies and miraculous fulfillment, including prophecies of national and political nature.
3. The Bible is a book of spiritual unity, written by more than 40 authors over 1,500 years for the purpose of making God known.
4. The Bible is a book of amazingly accurate preservation, completed nearly 2,000 years ago, yet preserved over the ages for us.
5. The Bible is a book of remarkable spiritual influence and practical relevance, speaking plainly to the universal human condition.
6. The Bible is a book of revelation and redemption, revealing God's plan for the eternal salvation of a sinful humanity through Jesus.
7. The Bible is a book of spiritual life and liveliness, breathed by God and teeming with spiritual power and dynamic energy.

### ▲ The Bible is available truth

Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Preach it precisely ■ Read it regularly ■ Study it strategically ■ Believe it boldly ■ Live it loudly ■ Swing it skillfully