

CONVERSATIONS ON THE CROSS

Part 1 | Pilate

March 22&23, 2014

JOHN 18:33-40 ESV

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. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Kingdoms, Authority & Truth

1. Pilate was trying to determine "who" Jesus was and "whom" He claimed to be
2. Jesus said He came to **"bear witness to the truth"**
3. Pilate asked **"what is truth?"**

WHAT TRUTH DID JESUS COME TO BEAR WITNESS?

1. **The truth of who God is (God is _____)**

JOHN 1:14, 18

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full

of Grace and Truth... No one has ever seen God; The only God, who is at the Fathers side, he has made Him known."

The truth (attributes) of God:

Holy - Therefore He is intolerable of sin

Just - Therefore He must Judge those who sin

Immutable - Therefore God cannot change

Eternal - Therefore God will never be affected or limited by time

Self Existent - Therefore He needs nothing & no one

Sovereign - Therefore He is all wise and in control

Transcendent - Therefore He is over/above all

All Powerful - Therefore He is undefeatable

2. The truth of who we are (Sinners without strength to save ourselves)

ROMANS 5:6-8

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will

*scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - but God shows his love for us in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us."*

- This was an affront to the **religious** because they saw themselves as righteous and "deserving" of God's blessing
- **Pharisees/Saducees** saw their "strength" as perfected by keeping the Law.

EPHESIANS 2:1-2;4-5

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved."

3. The truth of another way (Kingdom of God)

- His Kingdom is **transcendent** and invading this world and all of its kingdoms
- The Cross was not the defeat of a passive Jew upon a Roman Cross at the will of Jewish/religious leaders - It was the entrance and enthronement of the most powerful King ruling by love, lifted up above the rulers who unwittingly enthroned Him for all the world and underworld to see who God really is!

THE ULTIMATE DEPICTION OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

Merciful - He cannot **not** be moved or forget

Love - He cannot walk away

Holiness - He chose to become sin so that we may become righteous

Justice - He chose to pay the ransom price to set us free

Immutable - Because His law must be fulfilled, He fulfilled it himself

Eternal - He chose to enter into time and space

Self Existent - He "desired" us without needing us

Sovereign - He is so smart He fooled the devil into playing a part in our redemption

Transcendent - He stepped into our world without forgetting where He came from and where He was taking us

All Powerful - Undefeatable - He had no choice but to rise from the dead and redeem our lives

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How have you perceived Pilate's question "What is truth?"
2. What attribute of God have you had a hard time believing to be true?
3. Have you understood and embraced the Kingdom of God?