

WHAT IS TRUTH?

So. Much. Irony.

- The irony of hypocrisy: They were already defiled – 18:28
Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.
- The irony of a pagan Roman demanding truth and God's people ignoring it – 18:29-30 *So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."*
- The irony of a pagan Roman defending Jesus three times vs. Jesus denied by his lead disciple (Peter) three times – Luke 23:22-23 **A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him."**²³ *But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.*
 - Pilate knew the motivation was envy, not justice – Matthew 27:18, Mark 15:10
 - Pilate's wife warned him that Jesus was innocent – Matthew 27:19a *Have nothing to do with that righteous man...*
 - Pilate was willing to even release a hardened criminal to save Jesus – Matthew 27:21
 - God is sovereign over injustice – 18:31-32 *Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.*

Jesus and Pilate

Question 1: *So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"* – 18:33

Rebuttal 1: *Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"* – 18:34

Question 2: *Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” – 18:35*

Rebuttal 2: *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.” – 18:36*

Question 3: *Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” – 18:37a*

Rebuttal 3: *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.” – 18:37b*

Question 4: *Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” – 18:38a*

Rebuttal 4: *... After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. – 18:38b*

Pilate’s question: *“What is truth?”*

21st century question: Why is truth even important? Why does it matter?

A: Do you want the true answer or the false answer? We all live as if truth matters (Sean McDowell).

- 1) Truth is what corresponds to reality.
- 2) Truth makes freedom and flourishing possible.
- 3) Freedom comes by properly responding to truth.

Barriers to receiving the Truth

1. Pride from within: Having to admit I’m wrong.
2. Pressures from without: *But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.* Luke 23:23