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2 Tonight's Scripture Reading

- Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" (John 18:33–34 NIV)
- "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?" (John 18:35 NIV)

3 Tonight's Scripture Reading

- 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." (John 18:35–36 NIV)
- "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. (John 18:37 NIV)

4 Tonight's Scripture Reading

- 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. (John 18:37a NIV)
- Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37b NIV)

5 Questions Impossible to Answer

- Here are a few questions gleaned from the Internet that are supposed to be impossible to answer:
 - When does it stop being partly cloudy and start being partly sunny?
 - Which baby is the cutest ever?
 - How can something be both "new" and "improved," 'cause if it's new, what was it improving on?

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- What is another word for "thesaurus"?
- Would you rather be able only to whisper, or able only to shout?
- Can you cry underwater?
- How old are you before it can be said you died of old age?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
- Why does the Easter bunny carry eggs? Rabbits don't lay eggs.
- Why when people ask you "what three things would you bring with you on a desert island?" no one ever replies, "A BOAT"

7 Answerable?

- You can find these and many more so-called unanswerable questions if you simply Google "Questions impossible to answer."

- But really, many of these questions are, in fact, answerable. It's not rocket science.
- The question about babies, for example, is easy. The cutest baby is "my baby."
- Can you cry underwater? Yes. Your tear ducts still function underwater, but you won't be able to feel the tears coursing down your cheeks because they'll mix with the water around you.
- And why would you be crying underwater, anyway?

8 **Jesus & Pilate**

- Tonight's text is full of questions. They are posed by Pilate, and Jesus responds to all of them -- except one. The last one.
- Pilate asks him: "What is truth?"
- And Jesus says nothing.
- If he did respond to the question, we don't know about it, because John doesn't tell us.

9 **Jesus & Pilate**

- Perhaps Jesus simply said nothing because he sensed that it was a rhetorical question,—a question of frustration coming from a guy under political pressure.
- It's more likely that Jesus didn't respond because he knew Pilate wasn't really looking for the truth.
- Pilate wasn't looking for what was true, but for what was expedient,—what was least likely to cause a riot in the streets, and a phone call from Caesar.

10 **Background**

- If we look at the context of this conversation between Jesus and Pilate, we will see that it took place after Jesus had been condemned by Caiaphas and the Jews.
- Since the Jews did not have the right to put anyone to death, the Jews brought Jesus to the Roman Governor, who was Pilate.
- It was their hope that Pilate would agree with them that Jesus was a serious political threat and should be condemned by the Roman government as well and put to death.

11 **Background**

- This is why Pilate begins his questioning by asking Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
- Jesus responds by saying, "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." (John 18:36 NIV)
- Trying to keep the conversation on topic, Pilate responds by saying, "You are a king, then!" (John 18:37 NIV)

12 **The Curve Ball**

- But then Jesus throws Pilate a curve ball by turning the conversation away from a political topic to a religious/ philosophical topic.
- Jesus answers, "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." (John 18:37 NIV)
- Then Pilate asks Jesus, "What is truth?" and gets no answer.

13 Awkward Silence?

- So then, why didn't Jesus answer this question?
- Through His ministry Jesus has been explicit in His teachings . . .
 - God is good and wants us to be reconciled to Him.
 - Faith in Jesus and His words is the way of salvation.
 - God's kingdom is coming and starting to break through already.
 - And that He was "the way, the truth and the life."

14 Pilate's Reaction

- Pilate is taken aback by Jesus' remarks and goes back out to the Jews and says, "I find no basis for a charge against him."
- He also knows that the real reason why the chief priests have handed Jesus to him and worked up the crowds was because of envy.
- And at this same time, according to Matthew, Pilate's wife sends him a message saying, "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." (Matt 27:19 NIV)

15 Pilate's Reaction

- To appease his conscience, Pilate comes up with two plans.
 - He'll have Jesus flogged and maybe that would satisfy the crowds where he can then release Jesus.
 - Give the choice to the people and let them choose between Jesus and a murderer known as Barabbas.
- As we know, the people chose Barabbas and Pilate gave in to their demands.
- Both (the Jews & Pilate) showed that they really didn't belong to the truth.

16 Belonging to the Truth

- Jesus says that everyone who belongs to him "listens to his voice." This is not the first time Jesus has said this.
- In referring about the "Good Shepherd," Jesus says, . . .
 - the sheep listen to his voice (John 10:3 NIV)
 - his sheep follow him because they know his voice (John 10:4 NIV)

- they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice (John 10:5 NIV)

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- All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them (John 10:8 NIV)
- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10 NIV)
- "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11 NIV)
- I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:16 NIV)

18 

- "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." (John 10:17–18 NIV)
- At these words the Jews were again divided. Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?" (John 10:19–20 NIV)

19  **Who Are the Sheep?**

- The sheep are those who are lovers of the truth.
- Even though they need redemption themselves and grace and mercy from God they nevertheless know the truth and listen to Jesus.
- As Jesus has said, I am the way and the truth and the life. (John 14:6 NIV)
- In other words, the sheep belong to Jesus because they belong to the truth.
- And as Jesus told Pilate, "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." (John 18:37 NIV)

20  **Listening to Jesus**

- When we listen to Jesus we show that we are lovers of the truth and thus belong to the truth.
- Therefore, it should be one of our highest priorities to devote ourselves to listening to Jesus.
- We do this when we spend time in God's Word and apply it to our lives where we gain "experiential knowledge"
- We also do this when we listen in our conscience to the soft still voice of the Holy Spirit—who leads and guides us into truth.

21  **What Listening Looks Like?**

- We show ourselves as lovers of truth when we listen to Jesus, but what does listening to Jesus look like?

- turn from evil and do good; . . . seek peace and pursue it. (1 Pet 3:11 NIV)
- When we pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. (1 Tim 6:11 NIV)
- say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (Titus 2:12 NIV)
- Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (Rom 12:12 NIV)

22 **Not Listening to Jesus Looks Like?**

- We do not show love for one another (see John 13:34-35).
- We do not repent of sin (see Matthew 4:17).
- We do not pray for our enemies (see Matthew 5:44-45).
- We do not "take up our cross" (see Matthew 16:24-25).
- We do not pray (see Luke 21:36).
- We do not forgive (see Matthew 18:22).

23 **Not Listening to Jesus Looks Like?**

- We express anger and verbal abuse (see Matthew 5:21-22).
- We commit adultery or visit Internet porn sites (see Matthew 5:27-30).
- We seek revenge on those who have wronged us (see Matthew 5:38-42).
- We seek the favor and applause of the public (see Matthew 6:1-4).
- We are consumed with worry and anxiety (see Matthew 6:25-34).
- We judge others (see Matthew 7:1-5).

24 **Listening to the Truth**

- When we turn off Jesus, we turn off the truth. When we turn off the truth, we turn off from a meaningful life.
- The “Good Shepherd” has come to give abundant life to His sheep.
- He has not come to cramp our style but guide us into a life that the Father can abundantly bless us in.
- Where our prayers can be answered and where we can live with peace in our souls.

25 **Listening to the Truth**

- So then, let us not turn off the truth in our lives by listening to the world, or to our own insecurities, or to our own fears.
- Jesus is still on the throne and has promised to return to this earth one day to build a Kingdom of Righteousness that will never fade.

- As the prophetic Isaiah declares, Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (Is 9:7 NIV)

26 **Man of Truth**

- 78 times in the Gospels, Jesus says the phrase, "I tell you the truth!"
- It was more or less His signature phrase.
- The reason being he was . . . a man of truth; there is nothing false about him (John 7:18 NIV)
- Therefore, let us put our faith and trust in the Good Shepherd who came to give His sheep—who listen to Him abundant life both now and forever more.