

1 What is Truth?

Time to get Answers . . .

2 Scripture

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?"

"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?"

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."

3 Scripture

"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."

"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.

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?'"

They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!"

4 Introduction

Children are curious about themselves and their ever-expanding world.

So, they ask questions.

It is natural for them to turn to their parents because they're usually the primary — if not only — source of the truth.

According to one source, parents can expect to get almost 500 questions per child from their offspring.

5 Introduction

One mother was startled when her 5-year-old son asked her where poo came from.

Being a good and honest mom, she provided a reasonably accurate and straightforward response, alluding to certain gastrointestinal functions.

However, the child was stunned and perplexed.

Then asked, "And Tigger, too?"

6 Introduction

Let's face it; many questions are hard to answer.

A few years ago, I addressed this problem in one of my previous sermons.

I asked the following questions, which we will discuss in the next couple of slides.

I think you'll agree that these questions are tough, if not impossible, to answer.

Nevertheless, let's put on our "thinking cap" and give it a try.

7 Introduction

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?

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?

When people ask you, "what three things would you bring with you on a desert island?" no one ever replies, "A BOAT."

8 Introduction

You can find these and many more so-called unanswerable questions simply by googling "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 "your baby."

Can you cry underwater?

Yes indeed.

Your tear ducts still function underwater,

But you won't be able to feel the tears because they'll mix with the water around you.

Besides, why would you be crying underwater, anyway?

9 What is Truth?

Tonight's text is full of questions too.

Pilate poses them, and Jesus directly responds to all of them -- except one. The last one.

Pilate asks him: "What is truth?" And Jesus says nothing. Why?

It appears that this would have been an ideal time to explain everything and appeal to Pilate for his release.

But Jesus remains silent.

10 Jesus & Pilate

So then, why didn't Jesus answer Pilate?

Pilate wasn't sincere, and his question was more cynical and rhetorical than anything else.

It was explicitly apparent that Jesus was the Truth!

Jesus, by not answering, reinforced that the question was already answered. The truth was that He was a King.

To answer that question would have taken all day, and Jesus had a lot to do!

It wasn't that Jesus didn't answer but that Pilate got up and left to address the Jews.

11 Background

If we look at the context of this conversation between Jesus and Pilate, we will see that it took place after Caiaphas and the Jews had condemned Jesus for religious blasphemy.

Since the Jews did not have the right to put anyone to death, the Jews brought Jesus to the Roman Governor, who was Pilate.

They hoped that Pilate would agree with them that Jesus was a serious political threat and an enemy to Rome since he implied he was also a king.

12 Background

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)

Pilate responds by saying, "You are a king, then!" (John 18:37)

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 18:37)

13 King of the Jews

Perceiving that Jesus was no threat to Rome, Pilate tries to make a deal with the Jews, but they would have none of it.

They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" (John 18:40)

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. (John 19:1–3)

The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head.

They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him repeatedly, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

And they struck him in the face.

14 Pilates's Reaction

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 King of the Jews

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" (John 19:4–5 NIV)

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" (John 19:6 NIV)

16 King of the Jews

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted,

Take him away! Take him away!

Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Finally, Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

17 King of the Jews

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross.

It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

18 Belonging to the Truth

The truth is that Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings.

Everyone who belongs to him "listens to his voice." But this was not the first time Jesus had said this.

In referring to 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)

19 What is Truth?

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 in 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)

20 What is Truth?

"My Father loves me because 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."

At these words, the Jews were again divided.

Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

21 Who are the Sheep?

The sheep are those who are lovers of the truth.

Even though they need redemption, grace, and mercy from God, they follow because they are all called by God.

As Jesus calls to them and says, I am the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6 NIV), [and] they will follow.

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)

22 Listening to the Truth

When we turn off Jesus, we turn off the truth and set ourselves up to lose all spiritual discernment.

Lacking a moral compass, we believe lies and will follow the wrong people.

The "Good Shepherd" has come to give abundant life to His sheep.

He has come not to cramp our style but guide us in the kind of life

that the Father can bless us in,

where our prayers can be answered, and

where we can live with peace in our souls, and

escape the wrath to come.

23 Listening to the Truth

So then, let us not turn off the truth in our lives by listening . . .

to the world,

to our own lust and greed, or

to our insecurities, fears, setbacks, and disappointments.

Jesus is still on the throne and has promised to return to this earth one day to build a "Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace" that will never fade.

As the prophet Isaiah declares, (Is 9:7 NIV)

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.

24 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)

So then, let us not be like so many who don't want Jesus to be their Lord and King.

Our King is all-powerful, yet rides on a gentle donkey.

He has our best interest always in view and is coming back to bring the fullness of his kingdom to the earth as it says in Daniel 7.

25 The King is Coming . . .

I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.

He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped (blowdown to) him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom will not be destroyed.