



**What is
“Truth”?**

John 18: 19-38

Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me?"



Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said." When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"



Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."



One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow. 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.
So Pilate came out to them
and asked, "What charges are
you bringing against this
man?"**



"If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.



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."

"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." (NIV)





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A Barna Research Group survey on what Americans believe asked the question, "Is there absolute Truth?" ...

- 1) Sixty-six percent of adults responded that they believe that: "There is no such thing as absolute truth; different people can define truth in conflicting ways and still be correct."**



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Seventy-two percent of those aged 18 to 25 expressed this same belief.



In a series of more than twenty interviews conducted at random at a large university, people were asked if there was such a thing as absolute truth - truth that is true across all times and cultures for all people. All but one respondent answered along these lines:



- 1. "Truth is whatever you believe."**
- 2. "There is no absolute truth."**
- 3. "If there were such a thing as absolute truth, how could we know what it is?"**
- 4. "People who believe in absolute truth are dangerous."**

(<http://www.christianity.co.nz/truth1.htm>)



I. HINDRANCES TO TRUTH:

- **Personal prejudices.**
- **Preconceived ideas.**



Matthew 12:22-24 - Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."



I. HINDRANCES TO TRUTH:

- **Personal prejudices.**
- **Preconceived ideas.**
- **Self-centeredness.**

“Diplomacy is the ability to allow others to have my way.”



**Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is
deceitful above all things
and beyond cure. Who can
understand it?**



I. HINDRANCES TO TRUTH:

- **Personal prejudices.**
- **Preconceived ideas.**
- **Self-centeredness.**
- **Fear.**



Philipians 4:6,7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



Matthew 6:31-34 – “So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”



II. TRUTH IS ESSENTIAL AND KNOWABLE:

- **Physical Truths.**
- **Spiritual Truths.**



**Hebrews 9: 27 - Just
as man is destined
to die once, and
after that to face
judgment,**



**Romans 3:23 - For
all have sinned and
fall short of the
glory of God,**



**1 John 1:8 - If we claim
to be without sin, we
deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in
us.**



**Romans 6:23(a) - For
the wages of sin is
death,**



**Romans 6:23(b) - but
the gift of God is
eternal life in Christ
Jesus our Lord.**



John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.



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



**Ephesians 2:8,9 - For it is
by grace you have been
saved, through faith--and
this not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God-- not
by works, so that no
one can boast.**





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