

Truth or Consequences

Jn.18:33-38, Jesus before Pilate

33. Jesus, inside the court (28)

- Pilate forced to probe one charge of Jews – “King of Jews?”
- “*Are you*” (emphatic)
- Lk.23:2; Jn.12:13

34. Jesus cannot answer question until He knows what it means –

- Does Pilate see royalty in Jesus?
- Or (more likely): is he testing a political charge?

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35. Pilate: “I’m not a Jew”

...Do you think I have a personal interest in Jewish questions?

...Would I call you king?

...If you’re not a king, what have you done?”

There must be something behind their hatred. He knows that Jews would not be upset with someone who wants to do damage to Rome

Jn.18:33-38, Jesus before Pilate

36. He is a king, but NOT of same nature as Rome. Like Himself – this comes from above
- Jesus is no rival to Caesar
 - If He chose to fight . . . (Mt.26:56)
 - Eusebius (historian): relatives of Jesus were brought before Domitian and asked if they were of the family of David; what sort the kingdom of Christ was, and where it would appear
 - They answered: this kingdom was neither of this world, nor of an earthly nature...

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37. So then, You are a king?

- “You say rightly” –
 - Common way to say, “*Yes, it is so*”
- Then Jesus brings up ‘the truth’
- Unveiling the truth of God was the way to make subjects in His saving kingdom

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38a. What is truth?

‘Wise men’ held to various opinions on truth; many supposed it was out of our reach

Jesus came to give us truth: Jn.1¹⁷ For the law was given thru Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

(1) truth exists

(2) error cannot save

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38b. “I find no fault in Him”

“Like earlier writers, John does not lose an opportunity to emphasize the political innocence of Christianity” – Barnett

The problem

- 1) Some deny existence of truth
- 2) Many do not know how to determine truth
- 3) Most people agree with Pilate's response to Jesus – who cares?

Some say truth is . . .

I. What we have always believed

- This attitude puts the standard within us [*my belief...*]
- Jer.10²³ O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps
- Prov.20²⁴ A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?
- Isa.53⁶ ...we have turned, every one, to his own way

II. Way of least resistance / most pleasing

- Why are rivers crooked?
- If we want to please greatest number of people... abandon truth... embrace...

1. **Nothing.** Gn.1

2. **Salvation by faith alone.** Ja.2

3. **Once saved, always saved.** Ga.5:4

Ac.28²² we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere

III. Way that is not controversial

- This plea is like the unicorn...
- **What is prejudice?** “It is the lock on the door of the closed mind. It is the ignorance we usually mistake for reason. It is the first enemy of information and progress. It is intellectual astigmatism. It is a perfect combination of conceit and ignorance. Prejudice never saved a soul nor settled any question in the light of truth or justice. It is the defense of the devil, the shall of a petrified mind, and the ceiling on understanding”

III. Way that is not controversial

- Jn.6⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” ⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more
- Jn.8⁴⁸ Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

IV. Whatever the majority says is right

- Mt.7:13-14, many / narrow / difficult way / few
 - describes road to heaven...
 - Jesus is this way...
 - His church: people who walk on it
- People who say it doesn't matter which church you go to promote the broad road that Jesus warns about

IV. Whatever the majority says is right

- Majority 'knows' that evolution explains our existence
 - [Men once 'knew' that life originated with dead meat [Egypt]
 - Now they know better – [life came from dirt]
- Majority 'knows' there is no truth. Meaning? no morality
- Adultery ... Fornication ... Gambling ...
Lying ... Homosexuality ... Abortion ...
Euthanasia ... Nakedness ... Drunkenness

V. Whatever wise men say

- They say Jesus is just a man (Mt.16:13-16)
- ...Bible is not true. – Jn.8:45
- ...sodomites may marry. – Ro.1
- ...abortion is justified. – Ro.1:29

Gal.1¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ

VI. Honest and sincere convictions

- Ac.23¹ Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day”
- Prov.14¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death

VII. Direct revelation from God (angel)

- 1 K.13 – “Do not do what God said!”
 - Would God send an angel to instruct the young prophet...then send an apostate liar to instruct him to do the opposite?
- Gal.1:6-9, not even an angel can change what God said
- Would God send angel from heaven to tell you to believe / do what contradicts His Word?
- Satan sends lying signs (2 Thes.2:9)

VIII. Experiences

- Job 4:7-11, proof of Eliphaz to convince Job that he is a sinner: his own experience
 - 12-21, why should they trust him?
 - A vision in the night
 - 42:7 – God said he was wrong

IX. What friends say and do

- Dt.13:6-9
- A true friend will tell you how to go to heaven; the only way he can know this information is same way we know it – read it in Bible

How do we determine truth?

- Jn.8³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'
- Jn.17¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth
- Ps.1² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night