

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Rev. Tom Baker

The day had been filled with political intrigue and personal angst. Pilate had tried everything he knew to get out of dealing with this man called Jesus Christ. Finally, Pilate had Him brought back into the Antonia Fortress in Jerusalem to question His prisoner one last time.

“So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ 34 Jesus answered, ‘Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?’ 35 Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?’ 36 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.’ 37 Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ 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.’ 38 Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’ John 18:33-38 (ESV).

Jesus peered into Pilate’s eyes, and Pilate turned and walked out of the room. Jesus’ mind raced back to the night before. Jesus had said, *“I go to prepare a place for you ... and you know where I am going”* (John 14:2-4).

Thomas replied to Jesus, saying that he didn’t have a clue where Jesus was going, so how could he know the way? Jesus said, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him”* (John 14:6-7, ESV).

Philip then said, *“Show us the Father and that will be enough for us”* (John 14:8).

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?’” (John 14:9, ESV).

Truth is conformity with fact or reality (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Jesus is not only the truth, but also the Creator of the fact or reality to which truth conforms. Jesus is the fullest expression of God (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15-20), and His death and resurrection confirm His reality and truthfulness (1 Corinthians 15). We can take Him at His Word, and His Word is *“truth without any mixture of error”* (Baptist Faith & Message 2000).

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