

An Encounter of Truth

April 8, 2018

Scripture:

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³³ 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?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They cried out

again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. (Jn. 18:28-40; pp. 904-905.)

From the Introduction:

In our postmodern culture nothing has taken a beating more than the concept of absolute truth. Truth, as known in the context of Postmodernity, is something that is relative to the individual, creating a myriad of truths disconnected from any one absolute truth.

- 1) The truth _____. (John 8:32; pg. 894)
“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (ESV)
 - a) Subjective truth _____.
 - b) Objective truth _____.
- 2) The truth _____. (John 17:19; pg. 903)
“And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.” (ESV)
 - a) Subjective truth _____.
 - b) Objective truth _____.
- 3) The truth _____. (John 14:6; pg. 901)
“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (ESV)
 - a) Subjective truth _____.
 - b) Objective truth _____.

Remember:

I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. (1 Jn. 2:21 ESV)

Reflect:

“There is something missing in my life, and it has to do with my need to understand *what I must do*, not what I must know—except, of course, that a certain amount of knowledge is presupposed in every action. I need to understand my purpose in life, to see what God wants me to do, and this means I must find a truth which is for me, and that I must find *that idea for which I can live and die.*”¹

Seek:

- 1) Reread John 17:19. Here Jesus’ prayer is for the believer’s sanctification in truth. In doing so, Jesus states, “I consecrate myself.” Why is it important for Jesus to make this statement in his prayer?

¹ Søren Kierkegaard, “An Entry from the Journal of the Young Kierkegaard,” cited in Douglass Groothuis, *Truth Decay*, (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 200), 10-11.

Share:

- 1) What does the idea of being “sanctified in truth” mean to your personal walk as a believer? How can you overcome subjectivity, and make real truth, God’s truth your foundation?

Serve:

- 1) True service to the Kingdom requires putting aside selfishness for the sake of others. What actions do you need to take, apart from the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study and worship to make the presence of God’s truth evident to others?

Prayer:

This week seek the Spirit’s guidance, asking God to protect you from subjective truth, and present the absolute truth to others as you walk with Him.