

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## John 18:33–19:16

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.

19:1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. 4 Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" 6 When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." 7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

CONTINUED IN JOHN 19:9-16

## Study Guide 18 December 2011 – Dwell: What is Truth?



### Summary

Pilate was supposed to be the decision maker at Jesus' trial, but he famously asked, "What is truth?" To Pilate, his power defined truth. To the Jews and their leaders, their power to control Pilate defined truth for them.

Jesus, the embodiment of truth, stood on trial. He alone was the absolute truth.

Without an absolute truth, we are left with relativism, which results in truth being defined by those with the power to define it. This struggle for power, however, is endless, and only leaves destruction in its wake. Pilate himself is a slave to the power of Caesar, and all are subject to the power of God.

Without absolute truth, mankind will never find meaning, freedom and peace.

There is only one man who can define truth – Jesus the Son of God, who came and was crucified to justify us before a holy God.

### Key points

Jesus is the embodiment of absolute truth. All other claims to truth fail to define what we are.

### Questions

>>What does it mean when we say that Jesus is Truth?

>>Why is absolute truth important to us?

>>If Jesus was the Truth, why was He crucified?

>>How do we suppress the Truth of God (Rom 1:18)?

>>How can we let God define what is true and untrue about everything in our lives?

### Final thoughts

If we have no absolute truth, how do we define our world?

