

Just before Jesus' death, Pilate questions Him, trying to find out who this Man is. Is He a politician, a rebel, a prophet, or a lunatic? He speaks like a king...

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there...

2000 years ago, Pilate asked a question that is on most everyone's mind at one time or another. "What is truth?" Posed by philosophers and poets alike, the search for truth, and for The Truth, has been going on for years, and it continues today.

But these days, that truth is harder to find because we have, for the first time, begun to question the concept of truth as much as any statement claiming to be truth. We call this part of Post-modernism and it began to show up in public consciousness in the late 20th century. In fact, during my lifetime I've seen the shift away from absolute Truth and toward cynicism, relativism, and opinion as driving forces behind society.

Let me give you an example. When I first taught Confirmation in the mid 90's, asking whether murder was wrong always brought the unanimous "yes". Today ask this in Confirmation and you'll get the unanimous, "it depends". What if you were murdering a really bad person? What if you were in the past and could murder Hitler? This "it depends" attitude goes for most absolute moral statements.

But it isn't just in thought exercises or even moral disputes that truth has become relative. In our current political situation, we are seeing the natural outcome of our Post-modern worldview. If there is no absolute truth, then there is no truth, and so all we have to go on when it comes to decision-making is our own opinions – which we now call "our Truth" – which are easily swayed by personality and manipulation. Our presidential candidates no longer battle over the truth but over which can out-charm the masses. They throw truth to the wind and speak absolute lies with charm and the masses follow.

Truth is very hard to come by these days. But, opposed to the current worldview, our opinion about the Truth has no effect on the truth itself. The Truth stands alone, absolute with or without our agreement. And that Truth is Jesus Christ. "I am the truth," He told His followers, as well as how this Truth can set us free. And while that truth has been questioned by Pilate and politicians alike, it is no less true. God is our Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Savior. This is true, whether we believe it or not. Jesus came, lived, taught, died, and rose for us whether we believe it or not. Saying it isn't true doesn't change it anymore than saying I can fly changes gravity.

Do you identify with the writer of this Proverb (59:14-15)?

*¹⁴ So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.*

¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

The world can feel this way, but it is not true. We follow The Truth (John 14:6), and He will set us free (John 8:32). In fact, following Jesus may be the only real way to know Truth, so don't be too surprised when this world can't understand it, or Him. Just lead them in truth, and trust God to do the rest.