

Not of this World
John 18:36-38

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): John 18:33-40

John 19:11; John 14:6; John 10:1-18; John 15:26-27; Romans 12:1; 1 Timothy 6:12

MAIN IDEA: The true king, Jesus, invites his people to an everlasting kingdom beyond this world.

OBSERVE

Locate this passage in its context for a moment. What's come before and what comes after?
Consider having your group members mention a few observations.

Who was Pontius Pilate? *The fifth governor of the Roman province of Judaea. He governed under Tiberius Caesar from approx. 27AD – 37AD.*

Pilate begins questioning Jesus after trying to have the Jews take the matter into his own hands.
What words best describe Pilate's attitude here? *Reluctant. Annoyed. Dismissive. Passive. Bothered. Inconvenienced. Etc.*

Describe Jesus's response to Pilate's questioning. How does Jesus respond to Pilate's interrogation?
Jesus challenged Pilate's authority and claim. Pilate is asking Jesus what if he is a ruler and Jesus asks Pilate by what authority does he ask him such questions. Consider comparing these statements to Jesus' later claim in John 19:11.

In verse 36, where does Jesus ground his authority? And what is the result of this claim? *His authority is based a kingdom that's not of this world. So, his followers do not fight as the worldly kingdoms fight to establish or testify to his reign.*

For what purpose did Jesus come according to verse 38 and what is his relationship to those that would come after? His task was to testify to the truth and fulfill God's plan of salvation. Those that are of the truth (that is of Jesus) will obey his voice.

INTERPRET

Answer Pilate's question. What is truth? *The simple answer is the right answer. See John 14:6. Jesus is the truth. He came to bear witness about himself being the one and only son of God. He is the King. He came to live and die for his people and to enable them to obey his voice (see John 10:1-18 & John 15:26-27).*

What did Jesus's answer cost him? What pattern does he lay down for those who follow him? *Jesus's answer cost him his life. He willingly laid it down (John 10:18). He calls his followers to share in his sufferings in the path of obedience. He calls his followers to not be conformed to the world (Romans 12:1), but to live lives that conform to him. Lives that bear witness to him in all we do.*

RESPOND

In what ways does this passage encourage, challenge, or convict you?

Do you see ways or circumstances in which you are better conformed to Jesus? What are they?

APPLY

Jesus calls his followers not to fight according to the world but to fight the fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12). How do we do that? Where have you succeeded in this and where have you struggled?

Jesus also says his followers will listen to his voice. How does that happen? Do you find it easy? When has it been hard?