



8/30/2026 | Pilate

Reflect + Discussion

- Have you had any meaningful encounters this summer? Who did you meet, and what made it memorable?
- Read John 18:28-36. What does Jesus mean when he says, “*My kingdom is not of this world*”? In what key ways is God’s kingdom fundamentally different from human kingdoms and political systems?
- Read John 18:37-40 and John 19:1-5. When Pilate asks, “*What is truth?*” (18:38), what does this reveal about his worldview? How does our culture ask that same question today?
- Read John 19:6-8. Why do you think Pilate was afraid? How does Jesus’s calm presence contrast with Pilate’s political games and the crowd’s demands?
- Read John 19:9-16. What does this story reveal about the limits and fragility of Pilate’s earthly power?
- In verse 11, Jesus points out that Pilate’s power is only allowed by God. How does knowing God remains in ultimate control change how we process anxious political or global events today?
- Charles noted that *human political power is upheld by force, while Kingdom power is held up by truth*. How does a King who willingly sacrifices himself redefine our understanding of real power? Why is it so significant that Jesus wants us to obey out of our own free choice rather than force or compulsion?
- How can we grow in recognizing the deeply personal nature of Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross? What is one practical step you can take this week to rely on Jesus’s self-sacrificing love rather than trying to control outcomes through your own strength?

Pray

Pray that we would grow in recognizing God’s great love for us. Pray that we would sense his nearness even through difficult seasons. Pray that as we reflect on the story of Pilate, we will be drawn to living in light of God’s sacrificial love for us. Thank God for the eternal life we have through faith in Jesus, and that we are a part of His kingdom which will endure forever.

Next Steps

Check out the [resources](#) page for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out [courses](#).