



Leader Corner

Two Kingdoms-One Truth

John 18:28-40

When looking at this passage, one may think that the two kingdoms in conflict are the Roman empire and the kingdom of heaven. But the conflict is far broader and greater: the kingdom of self versus the kingdom of God, the earthly kingdom of the Romans and the “Religious” versus the heavenly kingdom of the Righteous One. The ironies are rich in this battle. While wanting to kill the innocent and pure Son of God, the Pharisees seek to avoid being “defiled.” The one empowered to determine the truth (Pilate) quickly dismisses the relevance of truth. The people want Barabbas, whose name ironically means “son of the father.” But most importantly, the one in chains (Jesus) voluntarily withholds His power to free all who are in the chains of sin.

Main Idea: *Jesus is the King of kings who holds the keys to Truth and the Kingdom.*

Main Practice: *Praise King Jesus and Meditate on Biblical Truth*

Main Teaching: *John 18:28-40*

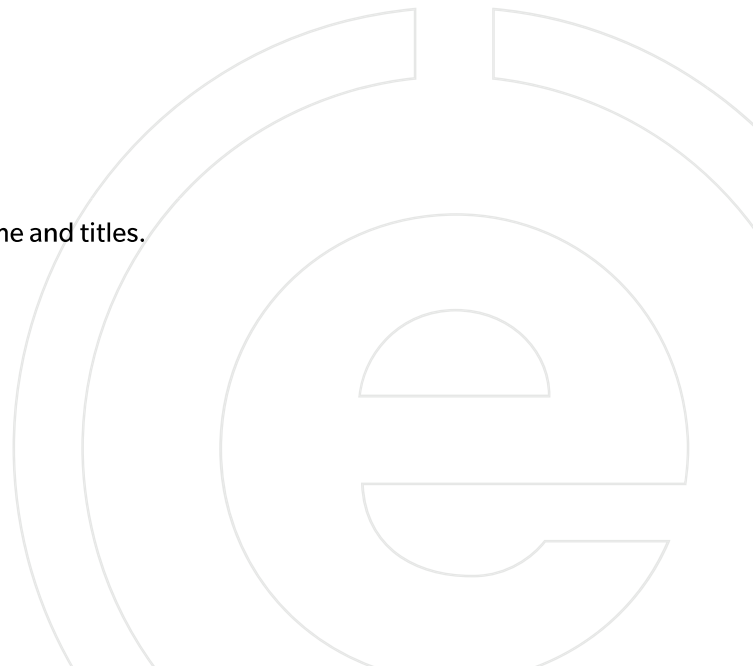
Refocus with Praise

Pull up Matt Redman’s King Jesus and listen to the words of why the King of kings was born. After listening, recite together these lyrics from Hillsong’s King of Kings:

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

with Prayer

Open with prayer by letting people hail King Jesus by lifting up His Name and titles.



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Principle

1. Have someone read John 18:28-40 from the NIV or ESV Bible. What do you learn about the (a) the fears, (b) the character and (c) the priorities of the following people in this passage? How do they represent their “kingdom” and express opposition to King Jesus?

- a. Pharisees
- b. Pilate
- c. Barabbas
- d. Jesus

2. How would you describe Jesus’ kingdom based on His responses to Pilate?

3. What was Pilate pursuing here and what was he rejecting?

4. Who today might give the same kind of responses as Pilate?

5. How would you respond to someone who said:

- a. What is truth?
- b. There is no such thing as truth.
- c. I am living out my truth.

6. Who or what are some of the “kings” people obeying today?

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Practice

Take the time to discuss how you will follow Jesus’ example of dealing with injustice. Begin prayer by taking time to renounce our service to the worldly “kings”. Close in prayer for those who persecute the followers of King Jesus, for those who are persecuted for following King Jesus and for those still enslaved in the kingdom of self.

For Further Focus

Read the following parallel passages (Matthew 27:11-26, Mark 15:1-15, and Luke 23:1-5 and 18-25) and add to the questions above what you have learned from those passages.