

Good Friday - 2021

It is said that what makes for a good reality show is conflict. Conflict provides drama and makes us choose sides. The Passion has all that and more. We begin with the squaring off of two kings and two kingdoms; we have to choose which to belong to. The first king, Pontius Pilate, is the local representative of Caesar, the King of the world. The rival, Jesus, is King of Heaven and Earth. Pilate asked, *"Then you are a king?"* Jesus answered, *"You say I am a king. [...] Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."* The exchange will eventually end with Pilate cynically asking, *"What is truth?"*

Life is full of choices. What we base our choices on determines who or what is our source of truth. In other words, we make decisions based on what we know to be true. Therefore, truth rules our lives. But if our decisions are based on misinformation or even lies, our decisions will be in error. Truth, ultimately, determines our destiny. The whole purpose of Jesus' life was to testify to the truth. He said, *"For this was I born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth."*

Jesus' trial and Pilate's question about the truth point towards a greater problem we face today. Some think an absolute truth threatens our freedom and democracy. Truth in our society is redefined again and again by public opinion. Christ calls us to accept an absolute truth that will guide us and our decisions.

The idea that truth is based on an individual's opinion is called relativism, and it is ever changing. There must be an absolute truth in the world that gives direction or we will be like a ship without a rudder. Truth, grounded in God, is what protects our freedoms and those inalienable rights that we enjoy as a nation. We are not equal in talent, or a hundred other categories, but what make us equal is we are sons and daughters of the same God.

If hindsight is 20/20, then let's place ourselves at the end of our lives and look back. Standing at the grave, what do we want to base our decisions on? Who ultimately guides us, the world, our self, or Christ the King? The truth of the world is based on the shifting sands of public opinion. The truth of our self may be whatever keeps us from having to conform our life to the Gospel. And the truth of Christ is the compass leading us towards what gives life.

The choice is ours, for Jesus said, *"Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."* Truth has been put on trial and we are the jury. What is our verdict? For the book of Proverbs says, *"The wise hunger for Truth, [but] fools feed on trash."*