



“You have no power over me”
John 18:33-38; 19:9-11

Jesus before Pontius Pilate

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

I. Bearing witness to the truth versus taking power.

The Christian Church from the beginning did better on the margins than in power.

To cities filled with the homeless and impoverished, Christianity offered charity as well as hope. ...To cities filled with orphans and widows, Christianity provided a new and expanded sense of family. To cities torn by violent ethnic strife, Christianity offered a new basis for social solidarity. **Church Historian Rodney Stark**

Community Group Questions:

1. When you read Jesus saying, “*You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.*” How do you see that concept working out for Jesus here, and more specifically in how God orders your circumstances?
2. Can you relate a time where you chose to not take power and rather let it play out with you remaining calm and committed to humility and civility?
3. Is there anything new you discovered as a result of this study about Jesus willingness to lay down his life for you, and how will it change you going forward?

Most Romans weren't Christians, but they continually adopted the Christian approach to relationships, the Christian approach to the poor, the Christian approach to sexuality and family was so attractive, so life-giving, that the Roman society slowly became less brutal and a far better place to live. Why? Because Jesus bore witness to the truth, and the Christians bore witness to the truth. **Tim Keller Author/Pastor**

What is it Jesus is asking of his followers?

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.

Colossians 3:15

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer everyone.

Colossians 4:6

II. The problem of power (over) politics.

In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

John 18:37,38

When Christ is your peace you will do what in the situation?

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23

III. Transformation to power (under) approach.

"Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

John 19:9,10

Jesus response: "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

John 19:11

Here's how you know that God delights in you?

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a servant and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Philippians 2:6-8

It's Passover, Pilate wants nothing to do with this case. The religious leaders are determined that Jesus shall die, and that Pilate must take charge of the matter. Rome, the greatest legal system of the ancient world and Israel, it's noblest religion, come together in the center of the world and in the center of history. Together they stumble into an act so wicked, so unjust, and so indicative of their own moral bankruptcy that, before anything more is said, we can already draw the correct conclusion. That the man dying at the center of this storm is indeed dying for the sins of the world. Truth is what Jesus is; and Jesus is dying for Barabbas, and for Israel, and for the world. And for you and me. **N.T. Wright**