

Look, Book, Took
November 26, 2018
Last Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Look:

Name a time you admitted an untruth in your life. What did that do to relationships involved?

Book:

John 18:33-37

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

1. Do you think Pilate wanted to set Jesus free?
2. How might Pilate be on trial in this passage instead of Jesus?

3. Pilate and the Jewish authorities may also have been at odds as other sources of literature indicate Pilate used money in collaboration with the Jewish authorities but was blamed for draining their resources. How may this have impacted this conversation?
4. Jesus is technically innocent of proclaiming himself as "King of the Jews," but would you call him King if you were a congregant (not part of the Jewish aristocracy) at this time?
5. How might the end of this passage be similar to the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd? (Hint: go to the last four words)
6. The word truth in the original language Aletheia, has multiple meanings and connotations throughout the Gospels and in the cultural setting of the time such as:
 - a. Truth as in accurate teaching about reality vs. myths
 - b. In faith/faithfulness
 - c. What is real
 - d. Genuine/accurate/real
 - e. How does Jesus personify or embody all of these variations/subtle nuances of truth?
7. What do you think it means to belong to the truth as Jesus describes?

Took:

What is an early memory you have of learning about truth and lying?
How might you define truth in your own words?

If Jesus is "the way the truth and the life," then how might you define the truth which Jesus embodies differently? Is it the same as your original definition? How might it be the same? How might it differ? (Perhaps go in the direction that describes how Jesus reveals God and God's glory)

Do you view Christ as a King? As your King?

Do you prefer a different image of Jesus?

Do you feel as though you have ever been “put on trial” for the truth in your life? (could be in your job, in a relationship, or any other arena). Were you able to tell the truth?

What does it mean to live according to the truth in your life? To live honestly?

Our moral understanding of “truth” as defined in our legal systems is rooted (or at least is intended to be rooted) in God’s goodness. Do you think living “honestly” brings you closer to God?

Eternal truth can be defined as the fullness of God’s grace and love. Is there grace and love involved when you tell the truth, hear the truth, or receive the truth? (This could be in an everyday context or something that relates to the Look section above)

How does the pain of telling/hearing the truth lead towards stronger relationships? Do you think it brings you closer to God when you have honest relationships?