

"My kingdom does not belong to this world."

Scripture Study

Carefully read the following passage from John's gospel. Then on a separate sheet of paper, or in your journal or notebook, write down your answers to each of the questions below. **Begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking him to enlighten your mind and heart as you read, that your heart can be like rich soil for his word to fall upon, there to grow and help you grow in holiness.**

*Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say 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." Pilate said to him, "**What is truth?**"*

-John 18:36-38

1. At what point in Jesus' ministry in the Gospels is this dialogue taking place? Where is he and what is happening?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says, "My kingdom does not belong to this world"? What kind of world does it belong to? (Check out Romans 14:17-19 for some help)
3. Why is Pilate's question to Jesus at the end of this dialogue so important? What does it show about Pilate's life and the culture he is a part of?
4. How is Pilate's question also reflective of the culture we are living in? How would you describe our culture's receptivity to the truth and to the Gospel message?
5. What are some aspects and messages of our culture that may confuse people about the truth? What people, things and mindsets do we as Americans crown as king of our lives instead of Jesus?
6. What can we do to combat these cultural messages and mindsets, and advance the Kingdom of God in our schools, homes, in our relationships, in the ways we spend our money, etc.?