

Nov. 22, 2015 "WHO SHOULD WE REALLY FOLLOW?", based on John 18:33-37

Christ the King Sunday, 2015

Criminal trials are inherently dramatic.

- All have seen live trials on TV, in the movies, maybe in real life
- Uncertainty, conviction or exoneration of accused, interplay of law, justice, and personality
- Know outcome of Jesus' trial before Pilate beforehand, but tension is still there

John's Gospel deals with reality of Pilate, the governor or authority, and Jesus, the poor victim

- Pilate wants to know what he's dealing with – a king or a country preacher?
- Jesus responds with a question – is that your idea, or what you've heard?
- Pilate reasons that his own people have brought him, what has Jesus done?
- Jesus lets him know that his kingdom is not here, not a threat.
- Pilate hears that he is a king. Jesus answers that he has come to testify to the 'truth'

Is Jesus our 'king' and the revealer of the 'truth'

- Some remember playing 'king of the mountain' in the snow as children
- The king was the strongest, biggest, maybe smartest. Pilate, to remain the 'king' knew the importance of keeping himself in power. Sacrificed 'truth' to stay above, did what was expedient, what the crowd wanted to hear, what was advantageous to his office.
- Who wants to advocate for the disadvantaged, those of little consequence and power?
- Jesus urged followers to be channels of grace, to stand on principle in concern over others, despite the consequences

Two kings face each other, one has the power over life and death physically, the other over life and death spiritually. Which is the right one to follow?