

### #3: Truth and Consequence March 24-26, 2007

<sup>18:19</sup>Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup>“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. **I said nothing in secret.** <sup>21</sup>Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. <sup>23</sup>“If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. **But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?**” <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. . . <sup>28</sup>Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. *By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.* <sup>29</sup>So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” <sup>30</sup>“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” <sup>31</sup>Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” *“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected.* <sup>32</sup>This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. <sup>33</sup>Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” <sup>35</sup>“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” <sup>36</sup>Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” <sup>37</sup>“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. **In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**” <sup>38</sup>“*What is truth?*” *retorted Pilate.* With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup>But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews?’” <sup>40</sup>They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising. <sup>19:1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him

in a purple robe <sup>3</sup>and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face. <sup>4</sup>Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” <sup>6</sup>As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” <sup>7</sup>The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” <sup>8</sup>*When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,* <sup>9</sup>*and he went back inside the palace.* “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” <sup>12</sup>From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” <sup>13</sup>When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). <sup>14</sup>It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. <sup>15</sup>But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. *“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.* <sup>16</sup>Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. *John 18:19-19:16 TNIV*

Introduction: The final 24 hours of Jesus’ life changed everything.

Before High Priest and Governor, Jesus could do nothing but tell the truth, but it was truth that so threatened them.

Jesus Tells the Absolute Truth

- I. Everyone Else Dealt in Relative Truth
  - A. The Jewish Authorities: Religious Relativism. (Cognitive)
  - B. The Roman Authorities: Political Relativism. (Cultural)
- II. Truth and Consequence

Conclusion: Satan’s stock and trade is the lie of relativism. He believed that he had used it to his advantage to kill the truth. Because Jesus refused to compromise the truth, he would turn the table on Satan and snare him in his own trap. Jesus went to the cross as the perfect sacrifice to establish truth.