

# Responding to the Authority of the King

December 16, 2018



**Open:** When you think of a king, what thoughts or images come to mind?

**Read:** John 19:16-22 and 18:33-38

**Discuss:**

1. Pilate chose to attach an inscription to the cross identifying Jesus as the King of the Jews (19:19). What do you think motivated Pilate to publicly identify Jesus this way (18:33-38)?
2. In this interaction between Pilate and Jesus in John 18:33-38, what do we learn about Jesus' view of His own kingship? During this season of Christmas, when we think of Jesus' birth, in what ways does Jesus' view of His kingship factor into your celebrations?
3. There is an obvious contradiction between what was happening to Jesus and Pilate's inscription on the cross. How does Jesus correct Pilate's misunderstanding of Jesus' authority? (*Read John 19:9-15*) How do the Jews view Jesus' claim to kingship?
4. Reread John 18:37. From this verse, how would you explain the reason for which Jesus was born? How should this purpose of Christ be evident in the way that we celebrate Christmas? Who are you currently praying will come to embrace Jesus as Savior and King? What might you do to help them see Jesus in this way?
5. What other ways does the New Testament point to Jesus as King? In what ways is the kingship of Christ similar to what we might expect of earthly kings? In what ways is it different?
6. Why were the chief priests particularly opposed to the idea of Jesus as King of the Jews? Why might people today be opposed to the idea of Jesus as King?
7. How does your life reflect allegiance to Jesus as King? In what ways are you encouraged by knowing Jesus is King?

**Apply:** Take a moment to silently ask God if there's a way that He would like you to respond to Jesus' authority this Christmas. Share. How can others pray for you regarding your response?

**Pray:** Pray for each other as you seek to respond in appropriate ways to the authority of Jesus. Pray as well for specific people that you intend to invite to our church's Christmas Eve service.

## John 19:16-22

<sup>16</sup> So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, <sup>17</sup> and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

<sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

<sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.

<sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

## John 18:33-38

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

## John 19:9-15

<sup>9</sup> He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

<sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." <sup>13</sup> So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" <sup>15</sup> They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." (ESV)