

“My Kingdom Is Not Of This World”

Near the end of our Search for the King, we come across some of the most important words ever spoken about our King’s kingdom. They were spoken by the

King *himself*, so we need to pay very careful attention. In [John 18](#), Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, taken back into the city of Jerusalem, and put on trial by the Jews. But they didn’t have authority to kill Jesus. Only the Romans could do that, which is why they eventually brought Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” This was to _____ the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Jesus’ death didn’t sneak up on him by surprise. Many times, he had said things like:

“The Son of Man will be delivered up to be _____.” ([Matt 26:2](#))

None of this was an accident or coincidence.

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not _____ 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 _____ the world.” Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this _____ I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the _____. Everyone who is of the truth _____ to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

So what did Jesus mean by **“My kingdom is not of this world”**? How is his kingdom different from all other kingdoms? What difference does that make in the lives of the citizens of his kingdom? What did he mean when he said that he had been born to **“bear witness to the truth”**? What do we need to see and understand? **Let’s talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's notice together that the conversation between Jesus and Pilate didn't end there. What happened in [John 19:1-11](#)?
- According to [John 19:12-16](#), why did Pilate end up giving into the demands of the Jewish authorities, even though he believed that Jesus was innocent? Is there anything we can learn from that?
- In [John 18:33](#), Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" What do you think? Was Jesus the King of the Jews? If so, is he the King of *only* the Jews?
- We highlighted [John 18:36](#) in the video as being of very special importance: "My kingdom is not of this world." What do you think Jesus meant by that?
- "If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews." What does this statement from our King tell us about his kingdom? What do we need to see and understand about his kingdom? How should this statement shape the way we live?
- "But my kingdom is not from the world." Clearly, Jesus wants us to understand some core principles about his kingdom. It's not "of" this world or "from" this world. So what *is* it "of"? Where is it "from"? [Philippians 3:17-21](#) might be a very helpful passage to visit at this point...
- What should we make of Jesus' mission statement in [John 18:37](#)?

For NEXT Sunday:

- We'll focus in on some of Jesus' very last words—"It is finished" ([John 19:30](#)). What did he mean? What was finished? How does it relate to our overall search for our King?