

# ***The One Who Will Listen to Jesus***

## ***International Bible Lesson***

### **John 18:28-37**

**Sunday, April 1, 2012**

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*“Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” (John 18:37—KJV).*

*“So Pilate asked him, ‘Are you a king, then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this one purpose, to speak about the truth. Whoever belongs to the truth listens to me” (John 18:37—GNB).*

*“Pilate asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that 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” (John 18:37—NRSV).*

If you asked a thousand people why Jesus was born, probably very few would answer, “To testify to the truth;” however, Jesus told Pilate that He came into the world for that reason. Jesus not only focused on teaching the truth, but He also claimed to be the truth (John 14:6). Believers may give a variety of reasons for why they became Christians, but they need to include, “Because Christianity is true.”

Jesus always told the truth, and He spoke rightly when He declared, “My kingdom is not from this world” (John 18:36). Unfortunately, too many of those who want to rule in this world do not care about the truth or focus on always telling the truth. Too many who seek leadership in the kingdoms of this world unfairly characterize or misrepresent the ideas of their opponents. Whether they themselves live truthfully or not, most people want to hear the truth from their leaders and those who keep them informed about their government and their rulers. Some who concern themselves mostly with the kingdoms of this world think believing in Jesus and His moral values should disqualify a person from holding public office. Yet, King Jesus steadfastly refused to use unrighteous means to acquire political office or spiritual influence in the world. He consistently told the truth and trusted in His heavenly Father with regard to the consequences. Furthermore, Jesus declared that those who belong to the truth will listen to (or obey) Him.

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## Thinking Further

1. What is a ritual? Why are the performance of rituals important to some people? What is ritual defilement?

2. What do you think Pilate might have assumed were the objectives of **a** King of the Jews or **the** King of the Jews? Why might these objectives concern him?

3. Why do you think Jesus did not give Pilate simple “Yes” or “No” answers to his interrogation?

4. Read John 18:37 again. Why did Jesus come into the world? Do you often hear this reason given when people talk about why He was born?

5. What kind of person listens to Jesus? When Jesus spoke to Pilate, what did He mean by “listen”? According to Jesus, what kind of person refuses to listen to Him?