



Why Jesus Came as King **John 18:33-40**

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).

Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice (John 18:37—NASB).

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 people why Jesus was born, probably few would include the answer, "To testify to the truth;" however, Jesus told Pilate that He came into the world to communicate and demonstrate the truth. Jesus 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 regarding the consequences. Furthermore, Jesus declared that those who belong to the truth will listen to His teachings and obey Him.

Thinking Further

1. How did you learn that Jesus is the King of the Jews?
2. How did Jesus answer Pilate's question, "What have you done?"
3. What did Jesus tell Pilate about His kingdom?
4. What reason did Jesus give Pilate for coming into the world?
5. Who listens to Jesus?