

At Last, Truth

By Rev. Todd Farnsworth

John 18:33-37 New International Version (NIV)



33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” 34 “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” 35 “Am

I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” 36 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.” 37 “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.”

I'd like to share a bit of history with you from www.timelines.ws. This bit of history is from 1924-1925.

1924 Jan 3, Howard Carter opened the doors to the last shrine in the hall, revealing the large stone sarcophagus of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen aka King Tut.

1924 Jan 21, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Ilyich Lenin died at age 53 and a major struggle for power in the Soviet Union began. A triumvirate led by Joseph Stalin succeeded Lenin.

1924 Mar 3, Kemal Ataturk forced the abolition of the Muslim caliphate through the protesting assembly and banned all Kurdish schools, publications and associations.

This ended the Ottoman Empire and created the modern Middle East, though Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia were still colonies of Britain and France

1924 Mar 20, The Virginia Legislature passed two closely related eugenics laws: SB 219, entitled "The Racial Integrity Act" and SB 281, "An ACT to provide for the sexual sterilization of inmates of State institutions in certain cases", henceforth referred to as "The Sterilization Act". The Racial Integrity Act (one drop law) required that a racial description of every person be recorded at birth, and felonized marriage between "white persons" and non-white persons.

1924 May 26, The US Immigration Act of 1924 (aka Johnson–Reed Act) prevented any further Japanese immigration to the US for the next four decades. It included the National Origins Act and the Asian Exclusion Act which prohibited the immigration of Arabs, East Asians, and Indians.

1924 Jun 17, The Fascist militia marched into Rome.

1924 Nov 27, The 1st Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was held in New York's Herald Square.

1924 Dec 20, Adolf Hitler was released from prison after serving less than one year of a five year sentence for treason.

1924 A retired Episcopal Bishop was tried and defrocked for declaring that communism was more relevant than Christianity.

1925 May 5, John T. Scopes was arrested in Tennessee for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution.

1925 Jul 18, Hitler published his first volume of "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle). Vol 2 was published in 1926. It became the bible for the Nazi Party. The book is filled with anti-Semitic writings, a disdain for morality, worship of power, and the blueprints for world domination.

1925 Aug 8, The first national congress of the Ku Klux Klan opened. 200,000 members marched in Washington, DC.

1925 Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in his [encyclical *Quas primas*](#) of 1925,

The Feast of Christ the King is designated among Protestant churches as the last Sunday of the church year, before Advent. It is an anticipatory feast in that we look ahead to the coming of Jesus into the world. We acknowledge, as John did, that Jesus is our Lord and in that, He is the Lord of Truth. It is a reminder that despite the illusion and oppression of governments or faith traditions (who seem to repeat themselves in their cruelty toward humanity and their need to control and oppress those who they disagree with) Jesus reigns supreme in our hearts and minds.

John describes the situation eloquently when he records the religious leaders of Jesus' day misrepresenting Jesus as a candidate for execution, and the Emperor trying to find a way to understand how to make that happen. Pilate says:

“Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” 36 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.” 37 “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.”

That “truth” which Jesus refers to is the reality that God does not care much for governments. God wants our primary allegiance to be to God. God wants us to love one another as God has loved us. God wants us to care for one another in the same way that Jesus demonstrates caring. Apart from laws and regulations and traditions. Jesus is more about heart and justice. Jesus is about leveling the differences between the haves and have nots. Jesus is about kindness...not cruelty. Not the cruelty that abounded when this feast day was established. Not the cruelty we see among our leaders today. Jesus expects his followers to be about something different...to act independently from the status quo of the government. If we are really listening to Jesus; counting him as our true “king”/leader, then we will sometimes be at odds with our government.

- We won't be able to support eugenics laws or immigration laws that reject people based on race or fear.
- We won't be able to support the suppression of free thought or free speech.
- We won't be able to support governments that bring about the oppression of people within or beyond their borders
- We won't be able to support leaders who promote hatred and division instead of love and unity.

We won't be able to support those things because fear, suppression, oppression and hatred are not part of Jesus' truth.

Jesus is fairly clear that his followers will not make his will known through violence, but by the living of our lives and the words that come forth from

our lips. It will be that integrity of spirit that will make the difference. It will be that living as if Jesus mattered that will change the course of history so that all people will know the truth...that they are loved by God. That they will be cared for by God. That they will have enough by God...in the name of our eternal king, Jesus Christ.

We aren't there yet...and so it is important to recognize this Christ the King Sunday. It's important to realign our focus and look to the coming of the One who will set all God's people free. May the people say, "Come Christ Jesus!"

Come Christ Jesus.

Let us gather in that Hope next Sunday, in His name. Amen.