

12/03/16 - Who Is King?

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John 18:28-38

Pilate didn't want to decide about Jesus. Why were these pesky Judeans bringing this man to him anyway? Was this a trap? "If he were not a criminal . . . we would not have handed him over to you," they said (v. 30). But what were the charges? Roman law demanded charges. Pilate already suspected what the charge would be: "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" (vv. 33-34). The charge of insurrection, if proven, would lead inevitably to a cross.

"My kingdom is not of this world," was Jesus' reply (v. 36). You cannot find it on a map. Jesus' kingdom is in the hearts of those who call Him "Lord." A king rules where he is acknowledged, where his law is obeyed and his sovereignty acclaimed. Jesus is a king, whether Pilate, Caesar, the Jewish leaders or any other authority acknowledges it.

"I find no basis for a charge against him," Pilate told the leaders (v. 38). Ultimately, he did have to decide, and so do we all. Not just "Is Jesus a king?" but "Is Jesus your King?"

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