

For Reflection:

Pilate is a magistrate of Rome. He has the power of life and death over a non-Roman citizen. His main job was to keep order in his jurisdiction. Pilate is not really concerned with the Jewish religious problems, but the Jewish elite have enough influence to make things uncomfortable for Pilate.

Pilate questions Jesus about being king of the Jews. Jesus did not like this title and referred to himself as the Son of Man, not king of the Jews. Jesus' answer to Pilate's question is puzzling. When we put all the gospel writer's accounts together it seems Jesus is saying, "Yes, that is one way of putting it." Jesus accepts the title, but is not the sort of king that Pilate would recognize (see Jn 18:33-37).

Jesus is The King of Kings who rules and protects according to a reality above and beyond what Pilate was willing and/or able to comprehend. Those who are inwardly open and accepting of this Messiah will belong to the eternal community—not the current passing scenario. Those who continue in unbelief will remain outside of God's fellowship and blessing in a dead-end existence.

Today's Scripture:

"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"You have said so," Jesus replied (Mk 15:2, NIV).

Questions to Ponder:

If you were a witness at Jesus' trial, what first hand testimony would you confess about Jesus' Kingship? If you don't have a very long list, how might you give him reign over your life?

Prayer:

Day by day, dear Lord, three things I pray of thee: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen (Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253).

Practice:

Fixed Hour Praying – to stop work and pray throughout the day.

Set regular and consistent "hours" (appointments) to attend to God through prayer. Set your phone to "call" you to keep company with Jesus. Develop the ability to hear a word from God in the midst of daily activities.

(Adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Fixed Hour Prayer)