

5th Station of the Cross (Modern) - Jesus is Judged by Pontius Pilate

"Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

"If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"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?"

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."

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him.³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising." ~John 18:28-40



*Christ Before Pilate. Francisco Rodrigo de Osona.
Museo del Prado*

- When have you co-opted what you know to be truth in order to appease the masses, your family, or your social circle?
- When have you not taken a stand to protect someone who is being attacked or bullied?
- When have you washed your hands of responsibility?
- What does responsibility actually mean as an internal dynamic?
- Can you identify with times you have made other people do your dirty work so as to look righteous, like the Sanhedrin?
- When have you been angry at the one who spoke truth about you, to you? Examine carefully your resentment and anger about having to face truth about yourself and being held to this responsibility.
- Which king do you worship within? The king of Truth, or the king of lies? Notice this within yourself without judgment.

"What we call our destiny is truly our character and that character can be altered.

The knowledge that we are responsible for our actions and attitudes does not need to be discouraging,

Because it also means that we are free to change this destiny.

One is not in bondage to the past, which has shaped our feelings, to race, inheritance, background.

All this can be altered if we have the courage to examine how it formed us.

We can alter the chemistry provided we have the courage to dissect the elements."

~Anaïs Nin