

**JAMES RAFFERTY**

**2024**

**Q4**

**L12**

**What Is Truth?**

**Dec. 14, 15**

Lesson 12: The Hour of Glory: The Cross and Resurrection (Sabbath)

December 14-20

Lesson 12

*December 14–20*

## **The Hour of Glory: The Cross and Resurrection**

Next week - Lesson 13 - Epilogue: Knowing Jesus and His Word -

### **Sabbath Afternoon**

**Read for This Week's Study:** *John 18:33–19:5; John 19:17–22; John 19:25–27; Luke 2:34, 35; John 20:1–18; 1 Cor. 15:12–20.*

**Memory Text:** “Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice’” (*John 18:37, ESV*).

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esus' crucifixion and resurrection are the climax of John. The first ten chapters cover roughly three and a half years; chapters 11–20, in contrast, cover about one to two weeks.

The four Gospels present the death of Jesus in different ways. Though their accounts are compatible, each author emphasizes key points that especially resonate with the themes of his Gospel. Matthew emphasizes the fulfillment of Scripture; Mark emphasizes the parallel between the baptism of Jesus and the cross; and Luke focuses on the cross as healing and salvation (the story of the thief on the cross).

But John presents the cross as the enthronement of Jesus, particularly tied to the idea of *the hour*, which is referred to numerous times throughout the book (*John 7:30, John 8:20, John 12:27*). This idea of enthronement is an ironic picture since crucifixion was the most ignominious and shameful way to die that the Romans used. This contrast points to the deeply ironic depiction that John presents: Jesus is dying in shame, but it is, at the same time, His glorious enthronement as the Savior.

*\*Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, December 21.*

SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd

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**Lesson 12: The Hour of Glory: The Cross and Resurrection (Sunday)**

**December 14-20**

**Sunday**      *December 15*

## **What Is Truth?**

In John 18:28–32, the trial of Jesus is not described in detail. The focus is on Jesus brought before Pontius Pilate.

### **Read John 18:33–38. What did Pilate and Jesus talk about?**

The governor asks Jesus if He is the king of the Jews (*John 18:33*). It is the first reference to this title but will not be the last. Jesus asks Pilate if he is asking this on his own or did others say that He was. His question turns the tables on the governor, querying if he understands to whom he is speaking. The reader already knows that Jesus is the King. Will the governor?

Pilate responds with his own query: “ ‘Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?’ ” (*John 18:35, NKJV*). It was an evasion, rooted in irritation at the close application of Jesus’ question. It was the governor’s first step away from the truth, letting prejudice block his perception.

Jesus responds that His kingdom is not of this world (*John 18:36*). Pilate then perceptively deduces that Jesus does claim to be a king (*John 18:37*). This leads to Jesus’ important explanation that He was born to bear witness to the truth and that every person who is “ ‘of the truth’ ” hears His voice (*John 18:37*).

Pilate then asks, “ ‘What is truth?’ ” (*John 18:38, NKJV*). But he doesn’t wait for the answer. Instead, he goes outside to try to save Jesus from the crowd.

Truth is a theme in John's Gospel. As the eternal Word (*logos*, *John 1:1–5*), Jesus is the Light and the Truth. All this is in contrast to darkness and error.

He is full of grace and truth (*John 1:14*).

Grace and truth came through Him (*John 1:17*).

Jesus called people to worship God in spirit and truth JOHN 4:23, 24 -GRACE - JESUS SPOKE THIS INTO THE TATTERED LIFE OF A SAMARITAN WOMAN THAT NO ONE ELSE WOULD EVEN TALK TO.

John the Baptist bore witness to the truth (*John 5:33*). *GRACE JESUS CALLED JOHN THE BAPTIST THE GREATEST OF ALL PROPHETS THOUGH JOHN EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT JESUS.*

Jesus affirmed that His Father is “true” (*John 7:28*).

Jesus said that we can know the truth and it can set us free JOHN 8:32

Jesus told the truth which HE heard from His Father (*John 8:40*).

The devil could not abide in the truth (JOHN 8:44).

JESUS SAID THE TRUTH BUT PEOPLE DID NOT BELIEVE HIM - JOHN 8:46

Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life” (*John 14:6*).

JESUS PROMISED TO SEND US THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH (JOHN 14:17; 15:26).

JESUS PROMISED THAT THE SPIRIT WOULD GUIDE US INTO ALL TRUTH (16:13)

The Word of God is “truth” (*John 17:17*).

JESUS PROMISED TO SANCTIFY US THROUGH THE TRUTH (JOHN 17:19).

**17 FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN BY MOSES, BUT GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST. JOHN. 1:17.**

**YET GRACE IS NEVER MENTIONED AGAIN IN THE ENTIRE GOSPEL OF JOHN, BUT THE WORD IS.**

**DID JOHN JUST MIS-SPEAK OR WAS THAT INTENTIONAL?**

**THE WORD REFERS NOT TO “GRACE” BUT TO JESUS CHRIST THE “WORD MADE FLESH”. JESUS HIMSELF IS THE GRACE OF THE TRUTH HE SPOKE.**

**GO BACK TO YOUR LIST.**

Despite his question, Pilate missed his opportunity to know the truth because of his prejudice, his earlier decisions, and the pressures upon him.

**How do you understand the idea of Jesus as the Truth?**

SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd

