

## You Shall Know the Truth

By Kimberly Sowell

*“Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15 NKJV)*

God has instructed us to seek His face. What if we were looking into the very face of the Son of God?

Jesus stood in the Praetorium, the palace of Pilate, while His accusers stood outside with anxious thoughts, thirsty for the shedding of blood. Pilate had a private talk with Jesus, an amazing moment in time as the Lamb of God stood in the face of the man who would sentence Him to slaughter, and Jesus beckoned Pilate to the truth.

Pilate asked Jesus if He was indeed the king of the Jews. Having heard the disdain in the voices of the Jewish leaders outside his portals, Pilate likely asked the question with little expectation to glean an answer of any interest. Jesus, however, asked a question of His own. *“Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?” (John 18:34 NKJV)* The question has a ring of familiarity, as it echoes the same pointed message Jesus sent to the disciples when He asked, *“Who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15 NKJV)* Jesus wanted Pilate to know he would personally have to decide who Jesus was in his own life. There can be no casual familiarity with the Son of God. Our depths of knowing Him cannot be measured by what we hear others saying about Him; we must decide in our own hearts who Jesus is.

As Jesus and Pilate continued their discussion about the kingdom of Christ, Jesus said, *“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37b NKJV).*

Then Pilate, in perhaps the most vivid display of human spiritual blindness, looked into the face of the Son of God and responded, *“What is truth?” (John 18:39a NKJV).* Pilate wouldn't have known the truth if it were staring him in the face, for Pilate was indeed eyeball to eyeball with Truth. Pilate was oblivious, but Jesus had already said during His earthly ministry, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6 NKJV).* Pilate turned and walked away from King Jesus, not aware of what invaluable piece of eternal wisdom Jesus could have given him had he only stood still long enough to receive the Truth.

The identity of Jesus is a truth often not discovered by men. In John 8:21-25, Jesus confronted the confusion of the Jews. Hear Christ sifting through the minds of all men: Then Jesus said to them again, *“I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come.”* So the Jews said, *“Will He kill Himself, because He says, ‘Where I go you cannot come’?”* And He said to them, *“You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* Then they said to Him, *“Who are You?” (NKJV).*

Paul wrote to Timothy that in the last days perilous times would come, because men would always be learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 3:7 NKJV). You may be studying for the first in your life to discover who Jesus is, or perhaps you have spent a lifetime of studying the Bible and listening to the Word of God taught in the church. But as you have continually been on this path of learning, have you fully accepted the knowledge of the truth of who Jesus Christ is, as the Savior of the world, as fully God and fully man, and as the Lord and Savior of your life? Have you wrestled with the Word of God, sought His face, heard His voice in your ear, and invited Him personally to be the Lord and Savior of your life? If you aren't sure, then echo the words of the Jews who asked Jesus, *“Who are You?”*

Jesus went on to say to this same group of Jews, *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32 NKJV)*. Fully accepting Christ as your personal Lord and Savior sets you free from the bondage of sin, and applying that knowledge to the needs of this dark world for hope in Christ gives us boldness to act upon that freedom. As Christ warns about the true reality of those who will die in their sins without His blood covering their iniquities, we look at our hands and feet and ask God to unleash us from the bondage of fear and pride, of tradition and complacency, of unbelief and self-indulgence, that we might be the light of Christ running swiftly into the darkness to dispel the lies of Satan and speak Truth to the nations.

Are you still asking, *“Jesus, who are You?”* Seek His face. *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matt. 7:7 NKJV)*. Be persistent in your search, and do not get up from your posture of prayer until you know who He is in a living and very personal way. It is not enough to be learning; each one of us must come to the knowledge of the Truth. *For if Jesus Christ makes you free, you shall be free indeed (John 8:36 NKJV)*.

