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South Eastern Minnesota  
Sermon Starters for November 2009

November 22, 2009 – John 18:33-37

*“I came into the world to testify to the truth,”* Jesus tells Pilate.

It is one of our great questions in our lives. We spend a lot of our time asking “Is that really true?”

We pose that question as we watch television, hear stories about events, read articles in the paper or listen to peoples’ conversations. Sometimes, we even question our faith.

For Jesus this is a definitive moment in his life, before he is to be crucified. He answers Pilate honestly as he has always answered honestly to questions posed to him. For Pilate it is not a special moment, it is one of many. He has handed out many death sentences in his life serving Rome. He is going through the motions of his office as prosecutor and judge and executioner. The query with Jesus is interesting, but it is not life-changing for Pilate. Even offering to release one prisoner during the Passover, is only customary – routine. Once the people cry “Crucify him” Pilate’s work is done.

But what is this time for us as followers of this King? It is a defining moment for us because it is also our truth – this is Christ, our King. So how do we respond to this generous act of sacrifice? What do we do with our lives after we have taken on his name as Christians?

Our defining moments are when we accept this example in our lives – to care for others more than just watching out for ourselves - to not surrender to selfishness and materialism in our lives – to show the truth in our lives by generously sharing our gifts of time, abilities and wealth.

Jesus came to testify to the truth in the world. As Christians, let us seek to testify to Christ that we follow him not just in name but in truly living our lives as examples for the world to see.



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