The God of Truth is Questioned by an Incredulous Pilate

Into your hand I commend my spirit.
You redeem me, Yahweh, God of truth – Psalm 31:5

[John 18:28-38, Pilate's home, Thursday] They led Jesus therefore bound from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and delivered him up to Pontius Pilate, the governor. It was early, and they themselves didn't enter into the Praetorium, that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Pilate therefore went out to them, and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

They answered him, "If this man weren't an evildoer, we wouldn't have delivered him up to you."

Pilate therefore said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law."

Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spoke, signifying by what kind of death he should die. *They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting the nation, forbidding paying taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."*

Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium, called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Do you say this by yourself, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered you to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight, that I wouldn't be delivered to the Jews. But now my Kingdom is not from here."

Pilate therefore said to him, "Are you a king then?"

Jesus answered, "So you say that I am a king. For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

When he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no basis for a charge against him.

The chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they testify against you!"

But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate marveled

Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

But they insisted, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee even to this place." But when Pilate heard Galilee mentioned, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he found out that he was in Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days. [Matthew 27:2, 11-14, Mark 15:1-5, Luke 23:1-7]

Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

1. How does Pilate talk to the Jews? To Jesus? Who else talks like this? How can you help?

2. How does God use evil intents to accomplish his will? Is salvation in spite of evil or by it?

3. Jesus, *you* are the truth, the way, and the life, I can't come to God but by your suffering…