

# Easter Sunday Sermon Study Guide: Behold the King

## Overview

This study guide is based on the sermon delivered on April 20, 2025, titled "Behold the King." The sermon explores the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate, the concept of sin and salvation, and the critical decision each person must make about who Jesus is—merely a man or the King of Kings and Savior.

## Key Scriptures

- **Romans 3:23:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- **Romans 6:23:** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **Romans 5:8:** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- **Romans 10:9-10:** "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
- **2 Corinthians 5:10:** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."
- **John 18:29-38, 18:39-40, 19:1-16:** The trial of Jesus before Pilate, including Pilate's question, "What is truth?" and the declaration, "Behold your King!"
- **John 3:16:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- **John 14:6:** "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

## Key Themes

- **Sin and Its Consequences:** All have sinned and deserve death as the penalty (Romans 3:23, 6:23). The sermon illustrates this through a personal story of breaking the law and facing consequences.
- **Jesus as Substitute:** Jesus takes our place, paying the penalty for sin through his death and resurrection, offering salvation to those who believe (John 3:16, Romans 5:8).
- **Decision About Jesus:** Like Pilate, everyone must decide who Jesus is—merely a man or the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (John 18:37, 19:14).
- **Judgment Seat:** We will all stand before Christ's judgment seat one day, but we also sit on the "judgment seat" now by deciding who Jesus is through our daily choices (2 Corinthians 5:10).

## Discussion Questions

1. **Personal Reflection:**

- The pastor shares a story of running from the police as a teenager. Have you ever done something "dumb" that made you realize you needed mercy? How does this relate to our need for God's grace?
- How does the idea that "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23) resonate with you? Can you think of a moment when you recognized your own sinfulness?

## 2. **Understanding Sin and Salvation:**

- According to Romans 6:23, what is the penalty for sin, and what is God's gift? How does this shape your understanding of Jesus' role in your life?
- The sermon mentions that Jesus' death satisfies the law and the wages of sin. How does this change your perspective on justice and mercy?

## 3. **Pilate's Dilemma:**

- Why do you think Pilate struggled with his decision about Jesus, even though he found no guilt in him (John 18:38, 19:4)? What pressures did he face?
- The sermon suggests Pilate might have believed Jesus was telling the truth about being a king of a different kingdom. Do you agree? Why or why not?

## 4. **Who Is Jesus to You?:**

- Pilate asked, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). How would you answer that question in light of Jesus' claim in John 14:6?
- The sermon challenges you to decide: Is Jesus just a man, or is he the King of Kings? How do your daily decisions reflect your answer to this question?

## 5. **The Judgment Seat:**

- What does it mean to "sit on the judgment seat" in your daily life, as the sermon describes? How can you make decisions that honor Jesus as King?
- How does the promise of standing before Christ's judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10) motivate you to live differently?

## **Application**

- **Prayer and Surrender:** Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal any areas of your life where you haven't fully surrendered to Jesus as Lord. Confess and commit to following him fully.
- **Examine Your Decisions:** Reflect on a recent decision you made. Did it reflect a belief that Jesus is your King, or did it treat him as "just a man"? How can you align your choices more closely with faith in Christ?
- **Share the Gospel:** The sermon outlines a simple gospel message (sin, death, Jesus' sacrifice, salvation through faith). Practice sharing this with a friend or family member this week.

## **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to take our place on the cross, paying the penalty for our sin. Help us to see him as our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, not just a man. Give us the courage to surrender fully to him, to make decisions that honor him, and to trust in his truth. Prepare us for the day we stand before your judgment seat, and let our lives reflect your love and grace now. In Jesus' name, Amen.