

26-0426a - Detailed Summary

26-0426a - Truth on Trial, Tom Freed

Bible Readers: John Nousek and Roger Raines

This detailed summary by Grok, xAI, (Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

See the transcript: [Transcript HTML](#) - [Transcript PDF](#)

Truth on Trial

Scripture Readings

1st Reading (0:04 - 1:17): John Nousek

John 18:36-38: This morning's first Scripture reading, delivered by John, comes from the Gospel of John chapter 18, verses 36 through 38. Jesus tells Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world, explaining that if it were, His servants would fight to prevent His handover to the Jews. Pilate asks if Jesus is a king, and Jesus affirms that He was born and came into the world to testify to the truth, stating that everyone on the side of truth listens to Him. Pilate responds

continued

with the famous question, "What is truth?" before declaring to the Jews that he finds no guilt in Jesus.

2nd Reading (1:22 - 1:50): Roger Raines

John 14:5-6: The second Scripture reading, delivered by Roger, is from John chapter 14, verses 5 through 6. Thomas expresses uncertainty about where Jesus is going and how to know the way. Jesus replies, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 20:17), Preacher: Tom Freed

(0:04 - 2:26) Opening Scripture Readings and Introduction

The preacher, Tom, greets the congregation warmly, noting the strong singing by Walter and hoping he can soon lead the full service. He introduces the sermon titled "Truth on Trial," painting a vivid scene of the cold Roman Praetorium with armed guards and an angry mob outside. A bound, bloodied, yet majestic Jesus stands before Pilate, the most powerful man in Judea.

(2:27 - 3:34) Pilate's Question and Cultural Context

Pilate leans forward and asks Jesus, "What is truth?"—a question that has echoed through generations. The sermon is called "Truth on Trial" because truth itself was on trial that day and remains on trial today in our culture, courts, classrooms, algorithms, and divided hearts. People casually claim "that's your truth" or "live your truth," treating truth as a mere social construct. However, Jesus did not shrug off the question; He answered it with His life, blood, and resurrection.

(3:35 - 4:57) Biblical Account and Modern Relevance

Reviewing John 18:33-38, Pilate asks if Jesus is the king of the Jews. Jesus reiterates that His kingdom is not of this world and states He came to testify to the truth, with everyone on the side of truth listening to Him. Pilate retorts, "What is truth?" This question strikes at the heart of existence in a world filled with information, opinions, and alternative facts. Is truth relative and subjective, or is there an absolute truth that anchors souls? Pilate's world was pragmatic, cynical, and power-

driven, much like today, where truth often serves to keep those in power happy and their careers safe.

(4:59 - 6:59) Comparison to Contemporary Society

Politicians today mirror Pilate by doing whatever pleases the people. Like ancient Rome with its Stoics, Epicureans, and skeptics, modern society swims in competing ideas, an ocean of information, disinformation, deepfakes, and echo chambers that blur fact and fiction. Finding truth in news or social media feels impossible. Yet Jesus does not debate; He embodies truth. His presence forces confrontation: Is truth a human construct, or something divine and unchanging? The sermon turns to the biblical foundation of truth.

(7:02 - 8:26) Biblical Definition of Truth

In Hebrew, truth ("emeth") means firmness, reliability, and faithfulness. In Greek, "aletheia" means unhidden reality, stripped of illusion. Truth flows from God's character: He is the Rock, His works are perfect, all His ways are just, and He is a faithful God who does no wrong (Deuteronomy 32:4). God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Truth is not merely a concept—it is a Person. Jesus declares, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Seeking truth ultimately means seeking Him.

(8:28 - 9:56) Contrast with Human Ideologies

Jesus is the ultimate truth who cannot lie, while human truth shifts with culture and feelings. Ideologies like Nazism and communism rose and collapsed, believing they were right yet causing hundreds of millions of deaths. Proverbs 14:12 warns, "There is a way that appears right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." God's truth stands firm like a lighthouse—unchanging and reliable. People resist truth because it demands accountability.

(9:57 - 12:04) Why People Reject Truth

Jesus explains in John 3:19-20 that light has come into the world, but people love darkness because their deeds are evil; they avoid the light to prevent exposure. Many resist Christianity to avoid accountability for their sins. Satan, the father of lies, uses deception, as in the Garden of Eden ("Did God really say?"). Today, this appears in prosperity gospel (critiqued in figures like Joel Osteen), secular humanism, and ideologies redefining marriage, gender, life, and morality based on personal desire rather than divine design. The attitude "if it feels good, do it" leads to confusion, brokenness, and spiritual bondage.

(12:05 - 13:34) Societal Decline and Call to Action

Society has gone insane because people follow their own ways instead of God's. Comparing today to 60 years ago when the Bible was followed more closely shows moral decline. God provides the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth, who convicts and leads to freedom. Knowing truth requires living it—James 1:22 urges not just listening to the word but doing what it says. Head knowledge without action is useless. The early church exemplified this, with Peter and John boldly proclaiming salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12), paying a price as believers still do.

(13:36 - 15:04) Practical Application of Truth

Truth requires integrity in words, honesty in business, fidelity in marriages, and courage to share the gospel. It sets people free from sin, guilt, and cultural approval (John 8:32) while demanding discernment—test the spirits (1 John 4:1). In an age of spiritual noise, believers should emulate the Bereans by searching the Scriptures. Preaching should always be backed by Scripture, as this church strives to do 99% of the time.

(15:06 - 17:18) Pilate's Failure and the Cost of Truth

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and declared it three times yet washed his hands and handed Him over due to the crowd. Rejecting truth costs eternity, while embracing it may cost comfort, reputation, or safety. Jesus warned of trouble in this world but assured victory. A personal story illustrates this: a young man drifted into relativism in college but returned to Scripture, losing friends yet gaining purpose and leading others to Christ. The church is the pillar and foundation of truth (1 Timothy 3:15), where believers proclaim, protect, and practice it together. Worship occurs in spirit and truth (John 4:24), with God as the audience, not the congregation.

(17:21 - 19:21) True Worship and Bold Proclamation

Worship is not about entertainment, big bands, or feeling happy but about doing what God wants according to Scripture. Churches should be chosen based on fidelity to the Bible. In teaching and fellowship, believers encourage one another and speak truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)—firm on biblical sexuality, sanctity of life, exclusivity of Christ, and scriptural authority, even if labeled hate speech by culture. This is seen as the devil's tactic to silence truth. The world starves for truth, and Christians are ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) tasked with making disciples.

(19:22 - 20:17) Closing Invitation and Call to Response

Pilate's question lingers, but Jesus answered with the cross and empty tomb. Truth bled, died, rose victorious, and lives today at God's right hand. Those living their own truth or hiding from the light are invited to come home: repent, believe, be baptized, receive forgiveness and new life. Believers are urged to recommit to living, speaking, and loving truth boldly for Christ's glory. The service closes with an invitation to come forward for baptism, church membership, or prayer as the congregation stands to sing.