

1. Opening Prayer
2. Intro: Truth

In Greek: ἀλήθεια (*aleitheia*): ἄ (as a negative particle) and λανθάνω (to be hidden))
: what is true in any matter of consideration

In Hebrew: אמת (*emet*): Contracted from אמון (*aman* which means assurance)
: firmness, faithfulness, reliability, stability

a. Aristotle's Correspondence Theory

In the *Metaphysics*, Aristotle provides his own definition of true and false: “to say of what is that it is, and of what is not that it is not, is true”; and “to say of what is that it is not, or of what is not that it is, is false.” (IV.7.1011b25, Ross.) In other words, a true proposition corresponds to way things are. – Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

b. Plato's Idea

Eternal truths exist in the realm of Ideas ("Idealism") rather than in what we would call the natural, physical world. These Truths can exist in your mind, but they cannot be observed or perceived out in the physical world; that is to say, Truth does not exist in the world that we can see with our senses (which means truths are hidden in this world). Plato calls this not true world the "sensible" world, meaning "the world perceived by the senses". – Tom Drake at Univ. of Idaho

c. The Hebrew Notion

- 1) God's Faithfulness: Psalm 91:1-4
- 2) Human's duty to be faithful to God: Joshua 24:14, 2 Kings 20:3, Zechariah 8:16-17
- 3) Human's duty to be faithful with one another: Genesis 47:29, Joshua 2:14

d. The New Testament Notion

- 1) God's Faithfulness: Romans 3:4-7
- 2) Revealed through Jesus Christ: Ephesians 4:21-24
- 3) Human's duty: Ephesians 5:8-9

Question. Where in Gospel John do you see Jesus using the word “truth”? And what does Jesus mean by “truth”? (John 1:17, 8:29-46, 14:6, 17, 15:26, 16:13, and 18:37)

3. Let us read John. Ch. 18

4. Discussion

- a. Compare Jesus' arrest in John 18 with the synoptic gospels' story (Mk. 14:43-52).
- b. Why do you think Jesus asked, "Whom are you looking for?" What does it imply?
- c. Why do you think the author uses "answered" (v. 5) in the first time of the arrestors' speech and "said" (v. 7) in the second time?
- d. How do you understand Peter's action and Jesus' response?
- e. Why do you think they took Jesus to Annas, instead of Caiaphas, the high priest?
- f. Who would be the "another disciple" who followed Jesus into the court?
- g. What do you see in Jesus' first trial before Annas?
- h. How do you understand Peter's denial three times? We see three questioners asking the same question to Peter. What could the three questioners imply?
- i. How shall we understand Pilate's response in verse 31?
- j. What do you see in the conversation between Jesus and Pilate?
- k. How do you think Pilate judged Jesus as innocent?
- l. What do you see in the people's request for Barabbas?

5. Closing Prayer