

Pilate is questioning Jesus just before he has him punished. He might be looking for a way out of punishing Jesus, or he might be looking to appease his own conscience that Jesus needed to be killed. Either way he seems not pleased with Jesus's reply. To be a king in a Roman occupied country would be a death sentence. Perhaps Pilate is affronted, he was not a king, his power was mostly in the hands of his Roman overseers, he must have longed at times to have the power of a proper king, doing as he saw fit, making up his own rules instead of constantly having his interpretation of Rome's rules questioned. Then Jesus upsets him further, "everyone who is on the side of the truth listens to me". He has accused Pilate, of not listening and not being on the side of the truth! Pilate has no way to back out now and Jesus will suffer his wrath.

You might, drawing on these ideas reflect on the type of King Jesus is compared to the rulers, kings, and potentates the world sees.

Gracious God; we pray for the world you love.

We pray for kings and queens,
and prime ministers and presidents and all earthly rulers:
the loyal and compassionate, the trustworthy and honest,
the wise and the considerate.

Give them the strength to continue in wisdom.

We pray also for leaders who fall short of these high ideals,
for those who forget who they are meant to be protecting and supporting,
give them ears to hear the voices of those they have power over
and hearts to listen in compassion.

We pray for those who make big decisions,
doctors and teachers, nurses and aid workers, parents and police.
Help them to listen to the needs of others.

We pray for all those who have to live with the decisions of others.
The powerless omp omp

You know the things that keep us awake at night and the things we look forward to.

Guide and p h and anA w! ke g& s l \$ ¢ ¢

