

The gospel says that Jesus underwent two trials on Good Friday, one by a religious leader; the other by a civic one. The crowd was out for blood, so when they didn't get too far with Caiaphas, they took Jesus to the man who could put him to death, Pontius Pilate. In the midst of that second trial Pilate asks an ironic question, "What is truth?" The truth is Jesus standing before him. The truth is that Pilate could find no case against him. The truth is that Jesus was innocent. Pilate did not have to ask what the truth was; he had it within his grasp, but he let it slip away.

The truth is that God sent the son into the world not to condemn it but that we might be saved. Condemnation might have been just; our sins are no secrets to God. We too have sacrificed the truth: we lie to those we love about where we've been and what we've done; we lie to ourselves about our own capabilities; we lie to God about our priorities. Like Pilate, we can reach the truth, but we let it slip away out of fear, convenience, or personal gain. You'd think God would be angry about that behavior, but God sent the son into the world not to condemn but to save. Go figure. Go imitate. The crucifixion of Jesus proclaims this truth: God loves us.