



Nov. 25, 2018 John 18: 33-37 & Dan. 7: 13-14

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Drawing with Permission by Fr. Robert Beck

[More Fr. Beck](#) (With permission)

Stone, Naomi. [Conscious Love](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Jesus Before Pilate](#)

[New Melleray Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)

[YouTube link](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

[Fr. Rolheiser](#) puts it this way: "Jesus, before Pilate, was free, but not emancipated. We, today, are emancipated, but not free. As we struggle for freedom, we might well contemplate that image of rare freedom, Jesus before Pilate, externally bound but internally free, telling the world that no human power can ultimately coerce the heart. However as we contemplate that image, we need to follow through on why Jesus was free in this deep way. Pilate had no power to take his life from him only because he had already given his life to his Father. Through obedience he became free, through submission to the God of heaven he escaped the power of the gods of earth. Too often today our notions of freedom are too adolescent to understand this. We are emotionally resistant to all notions of obedience, submission, another's will, and sometimes even to the very idea of Someone being above in such a way that puts us below. But until we give ourselves over in obedience to what is ultimate, higher, we will constantly find

ourselves at the mercy of lesser gods whose altars perennially demand human sacrifice."

John 18:33-37

33 **Pilate** then went back inside the **palace summoned** Jesus and asked him, "Are you the **king** of the **Jews**?" 34 Is that your **own idea**," Jesus asked, "or did **others** talk to you about me?" 35 Am I a **Jew**?" **Pilate** replied. "It was **your people** and your **chief priests** who **handed you over** to me. What is it **you have done**?" 36 Jesus said, "My **kingdom** is not of **this world**. If it were, my **subjects** would **fight** to **prevent** my **arrest** by the **Jews**. But now my **kingdom** is from **another place**." 37 You are a **king**, then!" said **Pilate**. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a **king**. For this I was born, and **for this I came** into the world, to **testify** to the **truth**. Everyone who belongs to the **truth listens** to my voice."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Each person born into this world is to live their own truth. What/who helps you do this best?

PRAYER: Lord, I am attracted to your words and your teachings. My own "[truth detector](#)" resonates to your understanding of God and God's love. Yet so many voices want to drown out your words that I often have trouble hearing Yours. Help me as I stand before the judgment seat of truth to trust that you will guide me to where I need to be. Amen.