

# ENCOUNTER

## SECONDHAND OR FIRSTHAND?

June 27, 2021

### **John 18:28-34 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

<sup>30</sup> They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

<sup>31</sup> Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law."

Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," <sup>32</sup> that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

### **1. The problem of secondhand religion**

"So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'"  
John 18:33

"Jesus answered, 'Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?'" John 18:34

### **2. Why we love secondhand religion**

a. We love secondhand religion because it's safe

b. We love secondhand religion because it's easy

“I used to be concerned about religion, but religion is a great subject, and I was busy and there was little time to settle it for myself: so I became a Catholic, and instead of dabbling any longer in religion myself, just left it to the Church to do everything for me. Once a year I go to Mass.” (*Anonymous*)

### **3. Why we actually hate secondhand religion**

a. We hate secondhand religion because it's not secure

b. We hate secondhand religion because it's not real

“I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you.” Job 42:5

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you.” Psalm 63:1

### **4. How to have a firsthand encounter with Christ**

“So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” <sup>30</sup> They went out of the town and were coming to him.”  
John 4:28–30

“They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.’” John 4:42

a. Keep reading “the gospels” (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

b. Keep praying

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelations 3:20

c. Keep loving