



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer

Christ the King Sunday

Hearsay

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus asked, "Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about me?" Pilate replied, "Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." John 18:33-37

How often do we get information second-hand or word-of-mouth, that we don't know is truthful, also known as hearsay? Jesus says to Pilate, is this you asking me or is this something you heard? Rumors are spread and opinions are formed without evidence or a chance of explanation (truth). I think of the way that society or certain communities feel that sexual exploitation only happens in dysfunctional families or with "bad kids" or children that run away from home. Just like the above text, Pilate assumed Jesus did something wrong because the Jews wanted him dead and believed he was not the king. However, those who are believers and know the truth know that Jesus is King, and we also know the truth that sexual exploitation can happen in all communities.

Do we live in the reign of God following the servant king? Do we live lives that reflect that service? Do we reach out to the "least" and the lost? Do we seek to serve rather than be served?

Lord I pray for those who have not yet come to understand and learn the truth of this being your Kingdom. I also pray that we would do our homework and not just believe hearsay. Lord please bless those who may not have a place to go and put it on our hearts to add an extra seat at the table this Thanksgiving for whoever may show up. Lord I pray for those who will have to face that family member that violated or took advantage of them long ago, and this holiday I ask that you give them strength to stand bold with you by their side. Peace and Blessings, Amen.

Today's Wednesday Prayer was written by Monica Jones, Cherish All Children Prevention Coordinator, and also a Senior Community Health Worker for Hennepin County, MN.