

Talk It Over

Truth Has an Edge (week 2) “The Truth Will Set You Free”

SMALL TALK

Were you ever caught in a lie as a kid? What happened?

VIEWPOINT

What are some of the lies the world gives to us that promise to make us happy?

Read Genesis 3:1-13. What does the serpent do to Adam & Eve?

Read John 1:14.

GETTING PERSONAL

Which do you struggle with: hiding, lying, or rationalizing?

Where do you see the negative impacts in your life from not allowing truth to set you free?

PRACTICE!

We talked about consistent time in God’s word and consistent time with God’s people. Which one do you need to work on?

John 8:31-32

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.""

John 8:31-32 NIV

A healthy Christian life is consistently shaped by truth.

Intro - Hello / Glad to be here / Two weeks / NFL

Recap - Last week Jim started us off by talking about how truth has an edge (series name). (Culture's view) (General v. Special) (Truth cuts other things out, points us to savior) (Truth & kindness)

Today we are talking about this idea:

A healthy Christian life is consistently shaped by truth.

When we say truth we mean the truth of who God is, how He designed us, and His plan for how the world works. (Right way of living v. Wrong)

We say we like the truth, but do we really?

- Does anyone love getting feedback at work, school, or home?
- Does anyone love knowing that their outfit looks terrible?
- Does anyone get excited when someone sits them down & says I have some hard stuff I need to say to you?
- We love declaring "our truth" online, but God forbid someone else shares.
- Does anyone here love having to "fess up" when they've made a mistake? (Marriage)
- We say we want the truth & then we get mad when someone gives it to us.

We have a desire and push-back to truth. Why?

- God's nature is full of grace & truth. (*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14, NIV*)
- We are made in the image of God. (Gen 1)
- Sin fractures the truth. Everything in the world is negatively impacted by sin. Our nature is that we are all sinners. Therefore, our relationship with truth is skewed. (Gen 3, the serpent is a liar, as in not the truth)

Truth: Our relationship to truth is damaged because of sin.

Result (help people feel this) =

- **We Hide** - keep our lives, struggles, and doubts a secret - we "have it all together" even as we hurt - even from ourselves. I'm great at hiding from myself. (Adam &

Eve), "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:8 NIV

- **We Lie** - We refuse to say what is truly wrong, we are "just tired", or we didn't say that. We don't speak the truth to our spouses, children, or co-workers.. (Maybe a photo bit of me as a kid - 4 year old sinner?)
- **We Rationalize** - "The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."" Genesis 3:12 NIV My problem isn't that bad, my actions are not that wrong, or as bad as someone else's... We believe the way we see the world is correct, we see ourselves as God... Lawyer / Judge

Which one do you struggle with?

Here's the good news: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* (John 10:10, NIV)

- Jesus presents a way for us to live our lives truly and fully. Through His work on the cross we are no longer bound by sin.
- During our time on earth, we want to grow to become more like Jesus - knowing that Jesus was filled with grace & truth.
- Create longing - *Don't you want to feel that freedom?*

Question - How do we allow our lives to be more shaped by truth?

"To the Jews who had **believed** him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my **teaching**, you are really my **disciples**. V.31

- Jesus gets done proclaiming who He is and this reaction is what follows.
- Notice, they make a distinction between **belief & disciples**. There are many people who "believe in God." There is a difference between this and being a student and follower of the Jesus way.
- Jesus says following his **teaching**. This is the words He said and the way He lived. It is the key to being a disciple.
- This is a challenge each of us have to encounter and wrestle with. When it comes to you & God, which one are you? Do you believe and sing the songs, but your life is not characterized by a pursuit of Jesus?

Then you will **know** the truth, and the **truth will set you free.**" V.32

- If you want to push back against the world's lies and false narratives, here's the answer. Be a disciple of Jesus and you will **know** the truth.
- *Notice knowing does not equal perfection.*

The result Jesus promises is that the **truth will set you free...**

- It sounds good. What does it mean?

- Being free implies that something is enslaving us. We are all captives to something untrue - some false promise. (Ill - the lightness you feel as a kid that slowly vanishes)
- Some of us are captive to the idea that money will make us free, a perfect family will satisfy us, our politician of choice being in charge will bring us salvation.
- Some of us hold onto a substance that we abuse because it makes us feel good. We hold onto toxic relationships.
- Derek - share about your struggle in this with achievement.
- We all at some level believe these and they all steal the good life God intends for us. Is there anything wrong with money, family, or an interest in politics? No, but when they become idols, we are enslaved.

The truth that sets us free is this

- There is a right & wrong way to live. There are responsibilities we have as kids to our parents, husband or wife to our spouses, duties to our community.
- There is a God who holds everything together. A God who is not concerned about your stat sheet, but about your soul.
- There is a God who invites us into a plan He has for the world and for the flourishing of its people.
- There is freedom from addiction, anxiety, fear, hatred, and depression and it is found in the cross of Christ.
- There is a God right now looking for you & wanting you to see yourselves as sons & daughters.

The enemy does not want this for you. Our inner sinner does not want this for us. God, as ultimate truth, wants this for us.

I fear that some of us are an awful lot like Adam & Eve. We are trying to hide from God. We may not have ducked behind trees, but we have our modern coping: busyness, scrolling, and numbing. But, the good God of the world walks through the garden calling out to you.

Do you want to live by the world's standards, or would you like a truth that sets you free?

Practically - how do we build truth into our lives?

1. Consistent time in God's word.
 - *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV
 - If we want consistent truth in our lives, we need to go to a consistent source of truth. (Ill - diet, if I want to lose weight, I need to be consistent)
 - If you want to lead your family well, be a light in your workplace, find some inner peace - a regular rhythm in God's word is the way to accomplish it.

- You may say, I've already tried that - I've heard this point before! Keep trying.
 - Ill - no expectations, Marlee.
 - Regular time in God's word to be shaped over time.
2. Consistent time with God's people.
- *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* Proverbs 27:17 NIV
 - (Truth has an edge callback)
 - God has placed the community of believers in our lives to help us be set free by truth.
 - Do you have Jesus followers in your life who are willing to share truth with you? Do you ever ask for it?
 - **Be in the local church. Be in the vehicle God has designed.** (Ill - I don't need church to be a Christian, okay, I don't need a home to be a human, but it sure helps)
 - Ill - I have had so much good truth given to me, I'm a better man & husband for it.

Vision - Now more than ever we need Jesus followers that are centered on the truth of the gospel. We will be a light to the world. Imagine how God could use you in your space.

Sin corrupts -> The Gospel sets free -> Get in God's Word & Be with God's people and you will find freedom

