

## JESUS THE TRUTH

### 1. JESUS IS TRUTH

- What if the reason that Jesus was born and came into the world was to show us what truth is?
- What if he didn't just teach us about truth through his sermons or parables? What if his very being, the way he interacted with others, his actions, his life was truth on display?
- **John 18:37:**  
*"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 14:6**  
*'Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life... No one comes to the Father except through me.'*
- These verses shocked me when I read them: if someone had asked me why Jesus came, perhaps like yourself, I would have answered to save us, to give us eternal life, to provide forgiveness for sins.
- Jesus himself sums up his life's purpose as 'to testify to truth' - giving evidence of
- If this is true, and Jesus' reason for coming was to show us truth, then the way we understand the world, the way we understand God and His Kingdom, in fact the way we understand ourselves, has to be through the lens of Jesus. His words, His actions, His life.
- It is not okay to simply believe the world's narrative about these things and not know what He says.
- Jesus has supreme authority over every other teacher (education system, social media, films that we watch, upbringing that we've had) has to come secondary to the authority of the truth of Jesus Christ
- Lord, show me what I am believing about myself, others, and you that is not true.

### 2. THE ENEMY IS A LIAR

- **John 8:44** *'when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies... there is no truth in him'* — subtle, his lies are popular in the world today
- Jesus the truth on one hand, or the enemy the liar - used to think there was a middle ground (Matt 16:23, get behind me Satan, you do not have in mind the things of God but *merely human concerns*). We have a choice: will we believe..
- **Anecdotes:** obvious lie - Lying to my dad when I was four years old - early age, not good to lie. But not all lies are as obvious as this.
- The enemy, who is a liar, is more tactical than we think. He is subtle and his lies can creep in to our thinking without us even knowing. Many of his lies are popular opinions today; they seem to make sense; they may even be quite comfortable.

<b>Enemy lie</b>	<b>God's truth...but the Bible says</b>
You cannot offer to pray because it may offend someone; you may lose your job	<i>Do not be afraid of those who can kill your body. Rather be afraid of God who can destroy both body and soul in hell.</i>
<i>Pornography is a normal guy thing its not that bad; you never really deal with it.</i>	<i>Be Holy as I am holy If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come</i>
Abortion is about women's rights, it's about choice, its not a baby its a foetus	<i>Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart</i>
It is okay to pursue money and possessions	<i>You cannot serve both God and money</i>
<i>there is nothing wrong with spending hours on Netflix a day and only minutes in His word</i>	<i>Do not love the world or anything in it, for whoever loves the world does not have the love of the Father in him</i>
<i>God could never use you, you're not consistent enough</i>	<i>My Grace is sufficient for you because my power is made perfect in weakness</i>
God has a plan for everyone else except you	I know the plans I have for you

- But if they stand in contradiction to the teachings of Jesus: they're not true and if we claim to be on God's side, we must not believe them - even if we seem to stand alone.

### **HOW DO WE LIVE TRUTH IN THE WORLD? Those on the side of truth listen to Jesus**

- First, we have to be open to the fact that not everything that comes into our mind is true
- We have to be aware that His ways are not our ways, and his thoughts are not our thoughts
- We have to be willing to submit to Him where we don't agree with His word.
- If you feel completely comfortable with the Gospel as you understand it, you may not be understanding it. Because there are parts that are hard to accept; there is a call to complete surrender; God doesn't promise ease but persecution

#### **(1) Look to the word of God**

- **John 17:17** *'sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth'*
- When Jesus is tempted in the wilderness by Satan, he responds every time with the word of God. Interestingly, Satan uses the Bible to test Jesus as well.
- Do we know the word better than the devil knows the word?
- Have a plan, choose a place, make the time > no need to wait for new year resolutions

#### **(2) Listen to the Holy Spirit/Spirit of truth**

- **John 14:16-17** *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*
- **John 15:26-27** *"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."*
- *Imagine:* The very spirit of truth lives inside of you if you have accepted Jesus into your heart. The same Spirit that hovered on the waters at the beginning of creation. God calls Him our helper - what humility that such infinite wisdom would live in our mortal bodies and take on the role of a helper.

- He knew we would need help
- We listen to him by making space; by praying: this can be done throughout a day. We can turn our hearts to God while we're on the train on the way to work or while we're pushing our baby in a pushchair.
- Holy Spirit, help me to see what you see and feel what you feel

### (3) Journey in community

- We hear God best in community; deep and genuine relationships that can hold us to account. We all see in part; we all can go astray.
  - The enemy lie: you can hear God on your own; just you your bible, you don't need others, you don't even need to go to Church.
  - For about a year now, I have regular meetings with a mentor - dear friend. Tom and I also seek to ask questions of our parents to process things together.
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- If we are not constantly checking our thoughts, and words and actions against the person of Jesus, there is a danger that we are not living in truth. And that is why Jesus came

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- I. **Jesus came to the world to show us what truth looks like**
- II. **Jesus is the personification of truth**
- III. **The enemy is a liar: we must be aware of his lies**
- IV. **To live truth in the world we must read His word, listen to the Spirit and journey in community.**