

## “Alternative Culture” : Telling Another Story of Transformation | Wk 5

1/31/2021 | @ASeattleChurch

“The Truth” by [Brice Herrick](#)

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### SERMON NOTES:

**Brice invited us to observe and reflect on a story where Jesus was portrayed as the master teacher and the ultimate truth teller (John 6).**

In this teaching we saw two different responses: crowd that walked away and the disciples who stayed.

The crowd walked about because:

#### **1 – They Were Blinded By Their Appetite**

Sometimes our desires can become destructive.

We must ask ourselves:

Is what I want worth wanting?

Is what I want most in life causing me to miss out on what’s most true in life?

#### **2 – They Were Impaired By Their Assumptions**

Sometimes, in our pride, we are unwilling to relinquish our interpretations of truth.

When you think you’re invincible, that’s when the truth becomes invisible.

Jesus in His love tends to pop our perspective and this can be uncomfortable.

Any exploration into deep truth is often an exploration into deep pain.

This is how we enter into the process of growth with God:

“The process of spiritual formation is being given new images and ideas that filled the mind of Jesus Himself. Thus, we begin to fall in love with the Father as Jesus was in love with the Father and this leads to a whole new life.” -James Bryan Smith

Peter stayed because

#### **1 – He Saw The Weight of Jesus’ Words**

Peter connected Jesus’ words to His true identity and authority.

In light of Peter’s response it’s worth asking:

Is Jesus’ spin on the story of humanity accurate?

Does Jesus have the ultimate authority and credibility on the subject of life?

#### **2 – He Embraced Disorientation With Trust**

Peter didn’t know everything, but Peter decided who knew everything.

Peter walked with Jesus long enough to see His heart and knew He was trustworthy even though he didn’t understand what was being taught.

In light of this, it’s worth remembering that: **The one person who knows more than anyone else is the same person who cares about you more than anyone else!**

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

### WARM-UP: “Together” *(use one or none)*

1. What is a fun game you remember playing growing up?
2. What is your fondest form of travel? (walking, biking, running, riding in car, flying...)

### WORD: “Truth”

*Leader:* Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** In John 6 we see Jesus making a major identity claim saying He is, “the bread of life.” As He teaches this group about what He’s like, there are different responses to His revelation. On one side there is the crowd who walks away and on the other side there are the disciples who stay (represented primarily by Peter).

As we observe the different reactions to Jesus, it gives us space to do some introspection on what we believe about Jesus’ claim to be the truth. During this teaching from Jesus, everyone involved was uncomfortable — but a handful of disciples decided to stay. So, what caused some to stay and some to go?

**Read John 6:60-63** together outloud

Introduce or refresh SOAP to your group, then read the text and lead them through.

**S-** Scripture: Read the text

**O-** Observations: What stood out, what makes you curious, what questions do you have

**A-** Application: How does it or a part of this scripture speak to your life? What are the implications? Where do I relate? Where do I find myself? What is convicting?

**P-** Prayer: Pray the text in your own words, pray about what resonated with you, pray regarding your application...

### APPLICATION: “Life”:

How does it or a part of this scripture speak to your life? Ask yourself: What are the implications? Where do I relate? Where do I find myself? What is convicting? Where do I want to grow?

### PRAYER “Truth” (options of how to pray in your group)

1. Pray for revelation of the truth of Jesus to open afresh in our lives.
2. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

## COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
  - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. **Awesome:** ASC has begun giving away 10% of all donations we receive to help support church-planting, biblical justice, and other non-profits serving our city & world!
2. **Invite a friend and join us online:**
  - a. Jan 31: We continue in our new Series: Alternative Culture
3. **All-Church Prayer Calls:**
  - a. Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
  - b. Friday Mornings from 6:30am-7am 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
4. **Worship and Prayer Night:** Starting February 3rd we will be having a monthly Worship and Prayer night on the first Wednesday of every month. Register on Planning Center <https://aseattlechurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/703748>
5. **Get Involved:** If you are interested in serving at church, we have several opportunities for you to do so.
  - a. Hospitality: Help serve our production team when they record on Sundays
  - b. Media: Are you a photographer, a writer, editor or graphic designer, sound engineer, we have an opportunity for you to volunteer your gifts and talents. Email [info@aseattlechurch.com](mailto:info@aseattlechurch.com) and Amanda will connect you with the right ministry leader.
6. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? **HERE**
7. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? **Let us know.**
8. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **let us know.**