

**The Truth Will Set You Free**

John 8:32

**\*Truth Quotes**

Truth is relative, There is no absolute truth, You want the truth, you can't handle the truth, The truth is out there, The truth hurts, Truth doesn't change according to your ability to stomach it, If you tell the truth, you won't have to remember anything.

\*Seeking truth growing up: laying on my bed and thinking deeply/stargazing

Let me share some true statements/personal truths...

\*Family Update (Edgewood family)

\*Thank Youth Leaders

\*Recognize Students (Colorado counselors statement)

So, when it comes down to it...

**Q.** "What is Truth?" Jesus and Pilate (John 18:38)

...that which is true; truth is reality

John 8:32: "and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

-Yes, telling the truth can give you personal freedom as opposed to living a lie, but this is not what Jesus is getting at. (Academia/higher learning example)

-Inductive Bible Study (with students)

Observation, Interpretation, Application

\*Context

**Q.** Can you handle the truth?

Read John 8:31-38:

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

\*In context: Jesus had just finished telling them He was the light of the world and the Son of God and that they must believe in Him in order to be saved from their sins. He even alluded to His own death on the cross...

-Some had believed in Him but Jesus takes things to the next level. He explains that to know the truth, you must abide in His word and follow Him, then you will be free.

### **1. We must be word-abiding disciples (31)**

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples

-To continue in truth we must follow the teachings of Jesus

John 17:17 – Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

III John 1:4 – I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (In context)

\*Parent's role in their student's discipleship

-Educational, social, spiritual life (What's the most important? What gets the most attention?)

-Need for the Holy Spirit (genuine conversion)

John 16:13 – when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

\*Students walking away from their faith (75%) M.T.D.

1. Faith not a major part of parent's life
2. They do not really know what they believe (apologetics)

"The heart cannot exalt in what the mind rejects." –Stephen Meyer

3. Satan (parable of the Sower)

\*Solutions:

1. Study apologetics
2. Find a church
3. Find a campus ministry
4. Abide in the Word

Back to the text: Read v. 33

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

-The Jews did not feel like they were enslaved to anything or anyone since they were God's chosen people. They were good to go...

**Q.** But according to Jesus what is the thing of which we must be set free from?

### **2. We must be set free from the sin to which we are enslaved (34)**

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

-Sin passed to all men (Rom 5:12)

-All have sinned (Rom 3:23)

-We are enslaved to sin

\*Analogy of Plato's Cave

Enslaved, blinded to the truth, true reality is outside the cave in the light...

### **3. Jesus is the only one who can truly set us free (36)**

<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

-Ultimately, Truth is a Person – John 14:6 – I am...the Truth

\*Former student praying to Truth...

**Q.** So, what are you going to do with Jesus?

-Are you too familiar with Jesus?

Matthew 13:58 – Nazareth

-Jesus is God – John 1:1-In the beginning was the Word... 1:14-And the Word became flesh...

\*Video – Names of Jesus

-Nothing normal about following Jesus – radical teachings (take up your cross and follow me, give up everything to be my disciple, go down in order to go up...)

**Q.** Do you believe the Word of God; do you believe God?

-Rediscovering Jesus, the Truth (are you stuck in a rut of rituals and traditions?)

**Q.** What if we lived our lives as if the story of Jesus were actually true. (and football, baseball, Netflix, and social media were not the most important things in our lives)

\*CS Lewis story

What if...

Christianity – not merely a set of doctrines but a history of the incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection.

Tolkien and Lewis

-Stories are woven by man/poets to convey truths using fictional characters

“We have come from God and inevitably the stories woven by us, though they contain error, will also reflect a splintered fragment of true light, the eternal truth that is with God.” -Tolkien

A true story, a metanarrative for life itself?

Just as men wrote stories to convey truths...

Tolkien maintained that Christianity was exactly the same except for the enormous difference that the poet who invented it was God Himself, and the images He used were real men and actual history.”

“In the same way that men unraveled the truth through the weaving of story, God revealed the Truth through the weaving of history.”

-God used the idea of truths in stories to reveal the ultimate true Story to Lewis

Does God still reveal Himself in seemingly miraculous ways to people?

\*The Lion of Judah story

Application:

1. Accept Jesus and begin following Him for the first time
2. Rediscover Jesus
3. Parents (grandparents), make a plan to disciple your children
4. Students, know what you believe and why you believe it

I John 5:19-20 – We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

This is how “you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

\*Video – The Truth Will Set You Free

Scripture Reading – Hebrews 1:1-4, Colossians 1:15-20, Philippians 2:5-11

Prayer

Song – No Longer Slaves

Close