

TRUTH
IN
Love

John 18:36-40

Truth Through Love

- **John 18:19-23 NIV**, 19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.
 - 20 “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”
 - 22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.
 - 23 “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?”

Truth Through Love

- **John 18:28-32 NIV**, 28 to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they (*Jewish Leaders*) did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”
 - 30 “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” 31 Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”
 - “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. 32 This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Truth Through Love

- **John 18:33-35 NIV**, 33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”
 - 34 “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”
 - 35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

Truth Through Love

- **John 18:36-38 NIV**, 36 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.” 37 “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.”
 - 38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

Truth Through Love

- **John 18:36-38 AMP**, 36 Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world [nor does it have its origin in this world]. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting [hard] to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this world.” 37 So Pilate said to Him, “Then You are a King?” Jesus answered, “You say [correctly] that I am a King. This is why I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth [who is a friend of the truth and belongs to the truth] hears and listens carefully to My voice.” 38 Pilate said to Him [scornfully], “What is truth?”

Truth Through Love

- This is a fascinating dialogue that speaks to our struggle with truth, freedom and our fleshly desires
- This is the Kingdom of Heaven facing off against the Kingdom of Man
 - This was the battle in the Garden of Eden
 - It was the battle when God commanded the Children of Israel to occupy their land the first time
 - It was the battle for Judas betraying Jesus
 - It was the battle for Peter when presented with the decision to deny knowing Jesus

Truth Through Love

- This is the Kingdom of Heaven facing off against the Kingdom of this earth
 - It is our battle as well
 - This battle is not truth verses falsehood
 - But truth verses fleshly desires, fleshly fears, fleshly pride
 - **1st John 2:16 NIV**, 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the (*boastful*) pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Truth Through Love

- Pilate is having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day
 - Pilate knew about Jesus, Desired to hear Jesus and maybe be entertained by Jesus with a miracle of two
 - He heard the stories of Jesus' power (*authority*) to heal, command, raise the dead
 - He knew Jesus had an authority he did not
 - **Vs. 36**, "My kingdom (*authority*) is not of this world."
 - My authority supersedes yours Pilate
 - He knew the hearts of the religious leaders and the people

Truth Through Love

- Pilate is having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day
 - So, what was Pilate looking for in this exchange?
 - Was he looking for information to make a truthful decision?
 - A clear way out or an escape
 - He found the truth, but it was not what he was looking for
 - **John 18:38 NIV**, 38 With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”

Truth Through Love

- What was Jesus looking for?
 - To bring Kingdom truth into Pilate's life
 - The same purpose He has for each of us today
 - Jesus loves us deeply enough to speak truthfully to us
 - **Isaiah 30:15 NIV**, "15 In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it."

Truth Through Love

- Jesus answered Pilate's truth question, but it was not what Pilate wanted to hear
 - *Vs. 37*, "Everyone who is of the truth [who is a friend of the truth and belongs to the truth] hears and listens carefully to My voice."
 - "Let me lead you to complete, perfect and absolute truth Pilate"
- We talked about freedom last week but how do it is even possible?

God's freedom flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- We looked last week that freedom flows from the love of God
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17 AMP**, 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]
 - **Romans 6:14 NIV**, 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law (*condemnation*), but under grace.

God's freedom flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- We looked last week that freedom flows from the love of God
 - **Judges 6:12 NIV**, 12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”
 - **Psalm 62:11-12a NIV**, 11 One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: “Power (*authority*) belongs to you, God, 12 and with you, Lord, is unfailing love”

God's freedom flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- Freedom flows from the love of God but through the authority of the truth of Jesus
 - **Vs. 36 AMP**, “My kingdom is not of this world [nor does it have its origin in this world].”
 - My authority comes from the very throne of God
 - **Isaiah 14:27 TLB**, 27 The Lord, the God of battle, has spoken—who can change his plans? When his hand moves, who can stop him?

God's freedom flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- Freedom flows from the love of God but through the authority of the truth of Jesus
 - **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go...”
 - What sickness could Jesus not heal?
 - Broken body could Jesus not perfectly and completely fix
 - Storm could he not speak peace into
 - What dead body could Jesus not raise if it was the Father's will

God's freedom flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- **2nd Corinthians 1:20 AMP**, 20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] "Yes." So through Him we say our "Amen" to the glory of God.
 - Every single promise from God is yes and done in Christ Jesus

God's truth flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- **Vs. 37 AMP, 37** So Pilate said to Him, “Then You are a King?” Jesus answered, “You say [correctly] that I am a King. This is why I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth.
 - Jesus didn't just come to provide an acceptable sacrifice for mankind
 - He came to bring God's Kingdom (*rule*) into the lives of changed believers

God's truth flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- It is through this Kingdom that God's truth will flow out to a lost and sinful world
 - It is through this Kingdom that God's truth will be seen through the lives of those who have been changed
 - And this is only possible through the power and authority given us by God

God's truth flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- Jesus testifies to the truth of God's Word, Way, and Plan
 - Testify - means strongly supporting truth by providing first-hand evidence
 - **John 14:1-3 NIV**, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

God's truth flows through the love and authority of Jesus Christ

- Jesus testifies to the truth of God's Word, Way, and Plan
 - **Titus 1:1-3 AMP**, 1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's chosen ones and [to lead and encourage them to recognize and pursue] the knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness, 2 based on the hope and divine guarantee of eternal life, [the life] which God, who is ever truthful and without deceit, promised before the ages of time began,

Stop looking for truth loopholes

- **Genesis 3:1 NIV**, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”
- We live in a time where God’s Word is being redefined to reflect the desires and thoughts of man’s heart
 - Change the Word but not the Heart
 - Be so seeker friendly we allow sin to creep into our lives little by little over time allowing it to grow and fester in our homes and church

Stop looking for truth loopholes

- **Jude 1:22-23 AMP**, 22 Try to help those who argue against you. Be merciful to those who doubt. 23 Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself. And as for others, help them to find the Lord by being kind to them, but be careful that you yourselves aren't pulled along into their sins. Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners.

Stop looking for truth loopholes

- Pilate thought he had come up with a way out of this dilemma
 - **John 18:38-40 NIV**, 38 With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. 39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”
 - 40 They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.
- Stop looking for truth loopholes and just be obedient to the Word of God under the guidance of His Holy Spirit

Truth Through Love

- The Apostle John gives a great illustration of truth through love
 - **John 8:3-6a ESV**, 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Truth Through Love

- The Apostle John gives a great illustration of truth through love
 - **John 8:6b-9a ESV**, Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones.

Truth Through Love

- The Apostle John gives a great illustration of truth through love
 - **John 8:9b-11 ESV**, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

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