



What to do with the truth?

Luke 5: 12-16

- Truth is not an allusive concept that changes from person to person or circumstance to circumstance.
- The very nature of truth shows us that this is something lasting and transcending. So many today are guided by pragmatism, which just teaches that you should do what works for any given situation.
- They teach that ethics may change depending on the person. “Your truth is your truth. My truth is my truth.”
- And that is why we are in the mess that we are in as a society.

- While people may offer varying perspectives about the same event, that is really only necessary because of our own limits as humans.
- Just because four different witnesses share about a car crash from four different perspectives doesn't mean there were four different car crashes. There was only one, but no one person could see everything that took place in that event.
- It's the same with life as a whole. We can't see the full picture, but we trust in the One who can.

**Main point: What we do with the truth of the Gospel is the most important decision of our lives.**

- Early in Jesus' ministry, he came in contact with different groups of people that responded differently to the start of His earthly ministry.
  - I. Those who reject the truth
    - a. Notice what Jesus said in Chapter four as He went to His hometown of Nazareth. He read in the synagogue. And they admired Him at first.
    - b. But before Jesus preached the things they didn't like He said, "A prophet is no good in His home country."
    - c. He didn't say that after they were mad at Him. He said that before. Jesus knew there will always be people who accept the truth, and there will always be people who reject the truth.
    - d. They went from admiration to vehement rejection in a very short period of time.

Why?

- i. Jesus said God's grace went to Outsiders, not hometown insiders
  - 1. Jesus reminded them of two Old Testament stories:

2. Elijah was sent not to an Israelite widow, but to a Gentile woman in Zarephath (Sidon = enemy territory).
3. Elisha healed Naaman, a Syrian general—again, a Gentile and enemy, while many Israelites remained unhealed.
4. To the people listening, this sounded like:
  - a. “God passed over you and helped them.”
- e. He challenged their assumption: “We’re God’s favorites”
  - i. Nazareth expected special treatment:
    1. “You grew up here.”
    2. “Do miracles here first.”
    3. “Bless your own people.”
  - ii. He implied their lack of faith
  - iii. The examples Jesus used made one thing clear:
  - iv. God was willing to act
  - v. But He responded to faith and obedience, not ethnicity or tradition.
    1. “You’re no better than pagans—and you may be worse.”
- f. The political and national sting
  - i. Naaman wasn’t just a Gentile—he was Syrian, from a nation that had oppressed Israel.
    1. To say:
    2. “God healed him but not you” was like praising an enemy general in a patriotic crowd.

g. That's why the text says they were filled with rage, not mild offense.

II. Those who believe the truth

a. There are, of course, many examples of those who believe the truth. That's all throughout the Gospel, and that's evident today.

b. Peter, James and John are recorded here in chapter five to believe in Jesus. But that was after Jesus had told them to cast their net on the other side. At first, they seemed skeptical of it.

c. A man with leprosy was healed here because of his faith. Then there is this powerful story of those who believed Jesus could heal their friend. They couldn't get to him because of the crowd, but they went through the roof instead.

d. This was more like a thatched roof with wooden beams and branches packed with mud and clay. They usually had stairs on the side of houses then because the roof was used for various household tasks.

e. But the point was they believed and they did whatever was necessary to get their friend to Jesus.

III. Those who follow the truth

a. There's a difference between believing and actively following based on that belief.

IV. [Gospel of Mark](#) 1:24 — demons identify Jesus as “the Holy One of God

V. [James](#) 2:19: “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.” (NASB / ESV)

a. Demons have correct theology, but they do not have obedience or repentance.