

Set Free by the Truth

A definition of truth that I recently heard is “That which corresponds with reality”.

Have we ever heard people talk about “little white lies” being OK? Where do we draw the line between the so-called little white lies and the big actual lies?

Lies can destroy people’s lives. I recently watched a movie called “The Game” where the game is one of lies and deceit in the real world. Eventually the man who is the object of the game jumps off a building to commit suicides after thinking that he has killed his brother – which he didn’t as even that was a lie – a practical joke. Fortunately the organisers of the game had anticipated him doing that and had put a big airbag below to catch his fall. But it is an illustration of how destructive lies can be.

John 8: 31 – 47

1) Slaves to sin

- How many people say that they are not slaves to anyone or anything?
- Sin is itself deceitful and blinds us to our true sinful condition.
 - ^{1John 1:8} If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us
 - ^{Romans 6: 20} When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness
 - ^{Titus 3:3} At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.
- Being a slave to something means to be in a bondage that you cannot be free of
 - A slave is different from a servant in that a servant is an employee and can resign and leave the employment whenever he wants. He is not owned by his employer
 - A slave, on the other hand, is owned by someone. He is someone’s property. He cannot walk free whenever he want as the servant can. Even if he is miserable he has to remain in slavery to his owner.
- So it is with us and sin
 - Jesus said that everyone who sins is a slave to sin. (John 8: 34)
- Jesus main concern here with us being slaves to sin is that a slave has no permanent place in the family but a son belongs to it forever.
 - A person can’t be a slave and a son at the same time.
 - He can possibly be one legally but not experientially
 - The prodigal son went back to his father wanting to be treated as a slave but his father wanted to treat him as a son
 - It took his son to turn his back on his wayward lifestyle to be treated as a son again.
- Jesus’ concern for us is that we be set free from slavery to sin to come into a full inheritance as sons – children – of God
- Jesus confronted the Jews for claiming to be Abraham’s children when they didn’t do the things that Abraham did.
- Not only did they claim to be children of Abraham but that God was their Father – thus the claim that they were children of God
 - Claims that have no testimony are false claims – they did not correspond to reality
 - They were living a lie based on tradition and culture rather than on truth.

2) Enslaved by lies

- The one who enslaves us by lies is the devil
 - He is a murderer
 - He does not hold to the truth for there is now truth in him
 - When he lies he speaks his native language for he is a liar and the father of lies
- The context of this conversation with the Jews is that they were rejecting Jesus and everything He was saying and all the claims that He was making.
 - Jesus himself being the truth made all opposition to Him a rejection of truth.
 - RO 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.
- The fall of man was based on a lie when Satan lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden.
 - Since then Satan – the devil – has kept mankind enslaved by lies
 - Jesus has defeated Satan on the cross and the biggest weapon that Satan has against us is that of lies.
- What are some of his lies that people believe:
 - Jesus didn't die on a cross for your sins
 - Jesus can't take your sins – you are responsible for your own sin
 - You should always feel guilty
 - There's nothing wrong with little sins – Why not tell the little white lie?
 - There are many ways to heaven
 - God wants you to have that nice non-Christian boy/girl that you like so much
 - God doesn't really love you
 - You are really worthless and no one loves you
- When we believe these lies we become ensnared in the devils hold – we become slaves to him without realising it.
 - We then start rejecting the truth and live the lie

3) Set free by the truth

- Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8: 31 – 32)
 - "If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed" (John 8: 36)
- We need to hold to Jesus' teaching to be His disciples
- In holding onto i.e. believing and trusting his word we will know the truth
 - JN 14:15 - 17 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth.
 - Knowing the truth will set you free
- I recently counselled a couple who went through a traumatic experience. She was overcome by guilt. As I listened to them I realised that what had happened wasn't her fault at all and that she was carrying false guilt. I ministered the truth of the matter into her life and she was set free from that guilt as she believed the truth.
- We can pray for people but if they do not believe the truth of God's word for their lives they will not be set free.
- Jesus wants us to be free so that we can enjoy all the benefits of sonship in Him.