

Telling The Truth

John 8:43-47

Truth is absolutely essential for a Christian in order to “stand against the wiles [tactics] of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). We must have our “loins girt about with TRUTH” (Eph. 6:14).

- God is the source of truth (v. 26; 17:3).
- His word is Truth (John 17:17).
- Jesus is the personification of truth (John 14:6).
- The Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of Truth” (John 14:17). He guides us into all truth (John 16:13).

Satan is a liar and the enemy of truth (v. 44). He seeks to turn people from the truth (Acts 13:8; 2 Tim 4:4).

Jesus asks THREE QUESTIONS John 8. They are questions that concern three TRUTHS. Notice seven references to “truth” (vs. 32, 40, 44, 45, 46).

I. **The truth about Jesus’ FATHER** (v. 43—“Why do ye not understand my speech?”)

➡ His “speech” was concerning His Father (cf. vs. 19, 27, 38-42).

➡ Jesus mentioned THREE FATHERS (vs. 27-44)

A. “My Father” (vs. 27-29, 38).

- v. 41— An attack of Christ’s deity. He really was an illegitimate son of Mary and Joseph.

B. Father Abraham (vs. 32-43).

1. Truth liberates (v. 32)—Falsehood enslaves... Truth makes one free—Lies puts one in bondage.
2. All sin is conceived in believing a LIE (Gen. 3).
3. Jesus was showing the Jews that they were in bondage. They were believing a lie (v. 33).
 - They were in bondage to Egypt (Pharaoh); Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar), and Rome (Caesar). And they were in spiritual bondage to sin/Satan (v. 34).

- What lies do—Lies blind you to the truth of your bondage and true condition. They blind to the fact of your sin.
 - The worst kind of bondage is the bondage a captive does not recognize. He thinks he is free, yet he is really a slave. (Cigarettes: “I can quit anytime!”)
3. Jesus asks, “*Why do ye not understand my speech?*” (v. 43). For the same reason people do not understand it today—They aren’t interested in *hearing His Word*—
- They don’t want to understand it! They can’t bear it! It is too offensive. It goes contrary to their humanistic philosophies. It rubs the fur the wrong way.
 - They would rather believe a lie (cf. v. 44). SEE Isa. 30:10; Jer. 5:31

We must understand the difference when Jesus is speaking literally and spiritually (v. 33 cf. 37). The Jews were Abraham’s *physical seed*, but not *spiritually*. Abraham was “*a friend of God*” (James 2:23), but they were the enemy of God.

All Moslems profess to be of “*Abraham’s seed*”—as did Mohammed. But their actions prove they were not of Abraham’s spiritual seed (vs. 39-40). Their spiritual father was Satan (v. 41-44).

- C. “*Your father... The Devil*” (vs. 38, 44). What was the evidence their father was the devil. It was in their spiritual DNA
1. They rejected the truth (v. 40).
 2. They sought to kill Jesus who spoke the truth (v. 40).
 3. They did not love Jesus (v. 42).
 4. They performed the lust of the devil (v. 44)
 5. They refused to hear God’s Word (v. 47). If they were the children of God they would hear Jesus’ words because His words come from God.

II. The truth about Christ’s FIDELITY (v. 46—“*Which of you convinceth me of sin?*” cf. v. 29).

- A. This verse deals with “the sinlessness of Jesus.” He not only spoke the truth—He lived it! No one could convince Jesus Christ of sin in His person:
1. Pilate confessed, “I find **no fault** in him” (John 19:4).
 2. The thief crucified with Christ said, “This man hath done **nothing amiss**” (Luke 23:41).
 3. Paul wrote that Jesus “was in all points tempted like as we are, **yet without sin**” (Heb. 4:15).
 4. John wrote, “He was manifested to take away our sins; and **in him is no sin**” (1 John 3:5).
 5. Peter wrote, “Christ also suffered for us... Who **did no sin**, neither was guile found in his mouth” (1 Pet. 2:21-22)
- B. There was not a single moment in Jesus’ life that He did not please the Father (v. 29). It did not matter what He was doing—Everything He did He pleased God! This sets Christ apart from every person who has ever lived.
1. Adam failed by partaking of the forbidden fruit.
 2. Abraham failed by following the counsel of his wife instead of believing God.
 3. Joseph by failed falsely accusing Benjamin of stealing the golden cup (Gen. 44:2-15).
 4. Job failed in believing God was unjust or unrighteous.
 5. David failed by numbering Israel.
 6. Hezekiah failed with vain glory before the Babylonian visitors.
 7. Daniel failed in allowing Nebuchadnezzar to bow before him.
 8. Paul failed in going to Jerusalem contrary to the will of God.
- C. The fact Jesus was sinless proves His deity. So, “*why do ye not believe me?*” Why don’t you believe someone who is faultless?

III. **The truth about their FAITH.** (v. 46—“*Why do ye not believe me?*”

➡v. 45—Jesus told them the truth.

- Told them the truth about His PERSON (vs. 12, 24, 25)

- Told them the truth about His FATHER (vs. 16-19, 27).
 - Told them the truth about dying in SIN (vs. 21-24).
 - Told them the truth about FREEDOM (vs. 32, 36).
 - Told them the truth about SATAN (v. 44).
- ➡ After telling them the truth about these things, Jesus asks, "Why do ye not believe Me?"
- A. To believe God's truth you must have a predisposition to obey it when God shows it to you. The exhortation to "obey the truth" is repeated several times in Scripture (Rom. 2:8; Gal. 3:1; 5:7; 1 Pet. 1:22). Don't expect God to show you the truth if you don't intend to obey it.
 - B. That is why some would rather believe a lie (atheism; evolution; universalism) than acknowledge the truth. Acknowledging the truth obligates you to obey it.

SUMMATION:

- Who is your Father? Everyone has an earthly father. And a spiritual father. The only way to have God as your heavenly Father is to be born again!
 - Are you obeying the truth you know?
 - Are you in bondage to some sin? The truth can make you free!
- ➡ **SEVEN LIBERATING TRUTHS** guaranteed to make you free:
1. **I'm saved by GRACE through faith** (Eph. 2:8-9). This truth frees me from...
 - Doubting my salvation.
 - Trying to "stay saved"
 2. **Jesus Christ is sufficient for my every need** (2 Cor. 9:8; 12:9). "Ye are COMPLETE in him" (Col. 2:10). This truth will free you from...
 - ..."My problems are beyond hope."
 - ...Discontentment and worry.
 3. **When Jesus saved me, He forgave ALL my sins** (1 John 1:7). This truth will free you from...
 - ...the guilt of the past.

4. **Any treatment I encounter on earth is better than I deserve** (Ezra 9:13). This truth will free you from...
 - ...Free from bitterness; depression; being offended.
5. **I exist to please God** (Rev. 4:11). This truth will free you from...
 - ...a life without purpose.
 - ...the fear of man.
6. **God owns everything and I am His steward** (1 Chron. 29:11-14). This truth will free you from...
 - ...the bondage of materialism and financial bondage.
7. **I am accepted in the beloved** (Eph. 1:6). This truth will free you from fears of rejection. Feelings of rejection come from the devil. It is one of his lies to prevent you from being happy. My happiness is not determined on your acceptance of me. Neither is it determined upon my own self-acceptance.
 - If I am accepted in the beloved, where else do I need acceptance?
 - If I am accepted in the heaven, where else do I need acceptance?
 - If Jesus loves me, it doesn't matter if anyone else loves me or not!
 - Then basis of our acceptance is not our clothes; our money; our personality; or our color. These things don't matter if we are accepted by Jesus!

START "TELLING YOURSELF THE TRUTH" instead of believing a lie!