

Morning Worship April 22, 2018
"Light vs Darkness / Truth vs Lies" John 8:30-45

I. See in this passage, the great blessing, potential and promise of faith –

As He spoke these words, many believed in Him (John. 8:30 NKJ)

1. *The phrase "These words" in John 8:30 appear to refer to all Jesus had been saying about His relationship to the Father, for instance - "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." (John 8:29 NKJ)*

A. This is the way faith comes –

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)

B. The Word of God is powerful, and Christ's preaching it had to be exceedingly powerful –

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrew 4:12 NKJ)

2. Christ would nurture and fan to flame this faith –

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32 NKJ)

A. It was NOT Christ's goal to douse this spark of faith –

A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; ... (Isaiah 42:3 NKJ)

"They will not be destroyed by the servant; he will not quench them so that they no longer live." Edward J. Young from his Commentary on Isaiah 42:3, a prophecy about Christ!

Christ's goal is not to douse the new found faith of those Jews who believed Him but to encourage their abiding, their continuance in His Word (the Word brought faith in the first place) that they may be His disciples indeed!

B. Yet, some might say Jesus went too far in His initial truth telling - and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32 NKJ)

Why? Because the still unconverted Jews were offended by these words –

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, `You will be made free '?" (John 8:33 NKJ)

- *They thought they were already FREE*
- *They thought they had always been FREE*

C. Yet, Jesus takes His truth telling further –

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. (John 8:34 NKJ)

Faith meant believing in Jesus, they seemed to have the start of this, John 8:30, they seemed to believe what He told them about Himself, but – When He started talking about them:

(1) Needing set free and (2) Being sinners;... they were fit to be tied!

Jesus says - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. (Matt. 5:3-4 NKJ)

Poor in spirit = spiritually bankrupt / Blessed mourning = mourning because of sin! Knowing and believing the TRUTH about ourselves as sinners is necessary to growth in the faith, necessary even for salvation –

Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³²"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Luke 5:31-32 NKJ)

Only when we realize we are slaves to sin can we be freed from it – "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. (John 8:36 NKJ)

II. Our great NEED is for us to realize our NEED is GREAT –

1. These people were lying to themselves –

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. ³⁸"I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." ³⁹They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰"But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. (John 8:37-40 NKJ)

A. Jesus knew these men were seeking to kill Him, why?

B. *He told them the TRUTH - a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God.*

C. *In this they were like Cain – not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. (1 John 3:12 NKJ)*

2. *People who lie to themselves, prefer others to lie to them – They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14 NKJ)*

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NKJ)

A. *We live in the day of political correctness where the very concept of truth is challenged –*

B. *Preachers avoid preaching about sin, death, judgment and Hell, in this they are nothing like Jesus –*
"You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father-- God." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. ⁴³ "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. ⁴⁴ "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:41-44 NKJ)

C. *Scripture posits this relationship with the Devil not only with the Jews but with all children of Adam –*

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJ)

D. *When we avoid the TRUTH, even about hard things, especially about hard things we are following Satan not Jesus, how similar is Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14 NKJ) To "You will not surely die. (Genesis 3:4 NKJ)*

E. *Their relationship to the Devil / Satan is proved by this verse – "But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. (John 8:45 NKJ)*

III. *Our great NEED is to continue, to abide in Christ's Word / Truth –*

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32 NKJ)

1. *We need to understand the TRUTH about ourselves –*
"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- ¹⁸ "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. (Revelation 3:14-18 NKJ)

2. *Realize Jesus speaks the TRUTH in Love -*
¹⁹ "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. (Revelation 3:19A NKJ)

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. (Proverbs 27:6 NKJ)

3. *Repent -*
Therefore be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:19B NKJ)

4. *Rejoice in fellowship with Jesus, overcoming, reigning and HEARING -*
²⁰ "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. "" (Revelation 3:20-22 NKJ)

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