

MY THE TRUTH

- Have you ever seen something then made a decision only later to realize that you were completely wrong about it?
 - o I heard a story about a girl who was making a sandwich and then her kid needed a diaper change. She saw some peanut butter on her arm and decided to lick it off. It wasn't peanut butter.
- A few years back there was this statement or a variation of this statement that popped up and caught on. "Live your truth" or "I'm living my truth"
 - o But you must ask the question of what if your truth isn't really true?
 - o Well, some of you may say well what the statement really means is to be the real you or be fully authentic.
 - Because if you are that person, you will have the most fulfilled life. The most rewarding life, you will be the most free.
 - o But can I tell you a secret about myself? Can I tell you something about the real me?
 - Angry prideful, liar
 - Me living those things out doesn't actually set me free but rather they imprison me. They don't allow me to live because I have to worry about everything else, I have to maintain a reputation and it leaves me feeling angry, empty, unloved, and unwanted.
 - o But the 'The Truth', can be difficult to accept, not always fun, more difficult to live out.
- So, the question really becomes does your truth set you free or does 'The Truth' set you free?
- Let me give you another example
 - o If I break the law. What happens?
 - A cop will come and arrest me and put some handcuffs on me.
 - Then take me to jail.
 - I do my time and then I get out.
 - And I am free
- Let's look at what scripture has to say about this
 - o Sin is what holds us captive
 - o **Proverbs 5:22**
 - o **John 8:34** "Jesus answered them, ..."
- Now the way that our brain works is this, I will do the time and then it will be over. It will be paid for and then I will be free. It will only hold me captive for a little bit of time.
- But it's like saying that I am free while still wearing the handcuffs.
 - o And this is a lie from Satan. This is how he deceives you.
 - Well, you are not behind bars anymore, so you're free and he wants you to think that you have freedom over sin, because if he can make you complacent, if you think that you are free you will be ok with being captive. And that captivity becomes comfortable.
 - **Do not be comfortable in your captivity.**
 - o The more you sin the more you become numb to it. The more it doesn't bother you and the more you say it's ok.
 - Has anyone ever lied?

- The more you lie the easier it gets to lie, and you begin to not feel as bad about it.
 - Think about a sin that you are prone to fall into. Have you gotten comfortable in that?
 - Have you begun to accept it
- So how do we become free?
- **John 8:32:** the truth will set you free
 - Free means to liberate- to free from a foreign power that foreign power is sin and Satan
 - Now here is the thing, I may know it but that does not mean that the truth has set me free.
- How can the truth set me free?
 - Because truth is a person
 - **John 14:6:** “I am the way the truth and the life no one comes to the father except through me. “
 - Jesus is the truth.
 - And when we look back at John 8 how does that look? **Vs 31:** we abide in him.
 - We may be able to feel like we gained some ground on our own but look at **John 8:36.** So if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed.
- Many of you have forgotten that I have hand cuffs on you. That is what happens when we get comfortable in our Captivity and comfortable in our sin. We forget. But it doesn't allow me to be free
- And it's not until I go to the one that allows me to be free and ask Him to release me. I believe that you can, I believe that you will, I believe you have done it before will you set me free. And I will follow you.
- This same thing needs to happen with Jesus.
 - It's not just saying God I know you are there
 - It's not just knowing that I messed up
 - But it's believing Jesus died and rose again and confessing your sins and following after or submitting your life to him.
- So here is what we are going to do. I don't want you to just take my word for it, but I want you to see in scripture for yourself. So were going to break up into small groups and our leaders are going to walk through some passages of scripture with you.
 - Maybe you need to truly understand it for the first time
 - If you're already a believer use this as a time of celebration, and a time of equipping so you can walk someone through these passages.
- And then I'm going to come back up and I am going to present you with an opportunity.

All my leaders, will you guys stand up? Grab _____ or _____ kids take them in here and start working through the passages.

If we take those steps: Believing, Calling on him and Repenting this is what will happen.

Romans 8:1

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”