



CHANGING FROM THE CENTER

Can You See the Truth?

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

"We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"



Why are we so unwilling to see and acknowledge
the clear truth?!?



"The first step toward peace is learning to accept what is. Notice I didn't say, *condone* what is; I said, *accept* what is. We must become people who acknowledge what is actually going on."

(from *What Does Your Soul Love?*)

“Any hope that you can know yourself without accepting the things about you that you wish were not true is an illusion. Reality must be embraced before it can be changed. The truly spiritual life is not an escape from reality but a total commitment to it.”

(Dr. David Benner)

“Most people do not want healing. They are willing to settle for relief.”

(from *What Does Your Soul Love*)

³⁹ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Yet... despite this constant access to—and ongoing interaction with—the truth of Scripture... they missed out on the life being offered to them by the *fulfillment of Scripture* standing in front of them!

“It is possible to have a position of authority without a life of credibility... We can have right answers without a good life. It is possible to teach something that we have not yet been transformed by.”

(from *What Does Your Soul Love?*)

¹⁵ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

“Truth is not just about things we believe about God: theological orthodoxy, statements of faith, and doctrinal affirmations. Truth speaks even deeper than these to reality—kingdom reality and divine reality... The invitation to transformation is learning to live in the truth.

This is not merely an invitation to do more Bible studies and learn more biblical facts. It is an invitation to live into the kingdom and for my soul to become at home there... The transforming journey is about learning to align ourselves with Jesus, becoming accustomed to and living with assumptions rooted in divine reality."

(from What Does Your Soul Love?)

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“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

“hold to” = “stay... remain... tarry... dwell... endure... and abide”

When we “abide” in the knowledge of the teaching of Jesus... remain in it, dwell in it... then we will “know” the truth, and the truth enables a life of freedom!

²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴ You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

"It's about sinking deeper into truth."

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We need to start focusing as much on "sinking into" the truth as we do "standing on" the truth.

Do you want to be fully immersed in the Truth?



Closing Reflections

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Invite the Spirit to reveal any “blind spots” you might have—ways in which you are refusing to see or acknowledge the truth of a reality that you aren’t proud of.

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Are you more interested in having the “right answers,”
or having a “good life?”

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Ask God to help you live in the truth by “holding” to the teaching of Jesus.

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In what ways might you be attending closely to the small details but missing out on the “more important matters” that actually lead to freedom?

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