

THE BIG IDEA: When we LOVE the truth, we will SPEAK the truth.

The Take-Off

This morning, we wrap up our 4 part series in 1 John that we've called "Love like Jesus."

Over the past month, you have (hopefully) read through this letter multiple times and have found it coming alive in you and in your family.

Before we jump into the last week's teaching, let's take a minute or two to do a quick review:

First, we realized that we can never love like Jesus if we've not first been loved by Jesus

- many people try to love for love's sake, but it is impossible to truly love if we don't know Jesus
- our hearts are broken and no matter how hard we try, we can not offer the depth of love to the world that Jesus offers to us without first being revolutionized by it ourselves
- this is why the church has lost so much relevance in our culture: we are used car salesmen selling what we would never drive ourselves

Second, we learned that when we love like Jesus, we love others

- this may have been a harder teaching for us, but it is important that we remember that we are called to walk in the light and not with the light
- walking with the light allows us to control where the light shines and who the light shines on
- many use this to reveal the faults of others without ever letting their own faults be seen
- but true fellowship happens in the light, with Jesus shining his light on us all
- Jesus is an equal opportunity exposor

Then last week, Phil taught us that when we love Jesus, we will love the world like Jesus does

- we will live lives of surrender and service
- we will love the world's souls more than its stuff

Any one of the previous weeks are enough in and of themselves to make us squirm a bit in our seats, and that's understandable, because as we'll find in this final week, the truth can be like that

But when we love like Jesus, we will love truth, and not only love it, but communicate it, as well

Our Big Idea today sums it up like this: **When we LOVE the truth, we will SPEAK the truth.**

2 observations from our text should help us see that clearly:

1. First, we must recognize the truth (verses 1-3)
 - a. In verses 1-3, John immediately clarifies the difference between the truth and a lie
 - b. Truth isn't a feeling, or justice, or the wrongs being made right
 - c. Truth is one thing, or maybe we should say, one person
 - d. Jesus
 - e. So many times we think that truth is knowledge and so we try to learn as much as we can because we don't want to be seen as gullible
 - f. Gullible is a funny word to say. In fact, if you say it really slowly, it sounds like "oranges"
 - g. The point here is that knowledge doesn't help you see the truth. Seeing Jesus helps you see the truth.
 - h. John wrote to the believers that they could know immediately what was true and what wasn't based on how people knew Jesus
 - i. We learned in the first week about the Gnostics and how they believed that our material world - including the body - was evil and could not be mixed with the pure spiritual world
 - j. That allowed them to focus only on their souls and it meant that they could do anything they wanted without fear of causing their souls to be impure
 - k. But John says here that the first step toward loving the truth is seeing - recognizing - the truth: Jesus is the Son of God
 - l. Most people don't want to see that, or simply can't see that.
 - m. Here are just a few things that can make it hard for us to see the truth of who Jesus is:
 - Sin (Matthew 15:14; 1 John 2:11)
 - Possessions (Luke 12:19-21)

- Comfort (Luke 16:19-31)
 - Pride (Proverbs 16:18)
 - Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- n. Sometimes we have blind spots because we simply didn't look hard enough. Having those while driving in India could be disastrous!!
- o. But often we have blind spots because we simply refuse to open our eyes.
- p. The good news is that Jesus is the best at storing sight, and this morning our prayer is that you might - for the first time in your life - see him clearly

2. Then, we must receive the truth (verse 4)

- a. This is a bit of a no brainer, but it can't be enough to recognize the truth about Jesus
- b. Many in America recognize Jesus, but they never take the next step of receiving the truth
- c. Verse 4 shows a distinct difference:
 - In verse 1-3 the focus is on recognizing the truth
 - Verse 1 was addressed to "friends"
 - Verse 4 is addressed to "children"
 - Notice the progression of terms
 - And now, we aren't talking about simply seeing or recognizing Jesus
 - Verse 4 says that now, Jesus is in us
- d. What it means for us this morning is that some of us may need to go beyond recognizing the truth and take the next step of receiving the truth
- e. If you've read 1 John at all, then you've already seen that those who receive Jesus and choose to live their lives in the light of his truth will have enemies in this world. John makes that clear.
- f. But we also have the promise found in verse 4: Jesus will **ALWAYS** be greater than anything we could face
- g. We can't lose, and the moment we begin to pull back because we might lose things is the moment that we stop recognizing the truth about who Jesus is.
- h. He is greater than anything.
- i. Paul wrote that in Philippians 3:8 - I consider all a loss **COMPARED TO THE SURPASSING VALUE OF JESUS**
- j. Today is a good day to step into a life with Jesus that has a value greater than anything you've ever known

2. Finally, we need to repeat the truth (verses 5-6)

- a. So we have the truth in us, or at least some of us do, right?
- b. And again, to be very clear, receiving the truth of Jesus is not saying a prayer or attending a church or memorizing 7 bible passages
- c. It is a life committed to following Jesus, to recognizing the truth of Jesus in every situation and changing my life, my heart, my attitudes in the light of that truth.
- d. And what is the next logical step for those of us who have recognized the truth of Jesus and received the truth of Jesus?
- e. It is to repeat the truth of Jesus:
 - Notice the introduction of speech language starting in verse 5
 - The world is talking in verse 5 and we are talking in verse 6
 - There is a lot of talking even if there isn't a lot of listening
- f. The bottom line? It is impossible to recognize the truth and receive the truth without then repeating the truth
- g. On the return flight I watched the movie "In Time"
- h. It was a bit of a strange movie, but the basic plot was that time was the new currency and everyone had the amount of time they had left to live on their wrists.
- i. The timer on their wrists counted down and so everyone knew when they would die unless they could earn, steal, or be given more time. Physically they stopped aging at 25 years old, and they could potentially live forever if they could always keep enough time on their clocks.
- j. The main character watched his mother die in his arms because she ran out of time, and eventually ended up partnered with the daughter of the richest man on the planet (because he had millions of years in time).

- k. Confused? Watch the movie sometime.
- l. But the dialogue that got my attention happened toward the end of the movie between the Will - the main character - and the girl. They were robbing banks of time watches and giving them to the poor, and dreaming of what they could do with a million years.

Girl: "Will, if you get a lot of time, are you really going to give it away?"

Will: "I've only ever had a day. How much do you need? How can you live with yourself watching people die right next to you?"

Girl: "We don't watch. We close our eyes."

- m. Many of us have lived with our eyes closed far too long.
- n. John 4:35 - Open your eyes and look. If you've recognized and received Jesus, you will see others who need him also, and you will repeat the truth about Jesus to them.
- o. **When we LOVE the truth, we will SPEAK the truth.**

The Landing

As we start to wrap this up, let me share something from our trip to India that I hope will really bring this teaching into focus.

There will be a Sunday in the next month when our entire team will share in more detail - there are just way too many good things that we need to process before we can even share them.

But one thing that I can tell you is what I experience every time I preach in another culture that doesn't speak English. I can know many good things and have good news to share, and I can even share it. But if we don't speak the same language, the good news isn't good news to them.

They can be desperate for good news and even looking for good news, but without an interpreter, the good news is really of no good at all.

Everything hinges on the interpreter, and Jesus is the better interpreter.

God has good news for us, and yet because of our sin, we can no longer speak the same language he does. We have no ability to receive that news, and so God sent Jesus to interpret it for and to us.

He lived among us as a man to help man recognize the truth about God, and when we understand how critical Jesus is to that whole process, we can receive the truth.

And then we have the awesome privilege of repeating such a wonderful message, and through the Holy Spirit, that message is interpreted to the people who are still blinded.

It is our only response to the truth, because **when we love the truth, we will speak the truth.**