

TELLING THE TRUTH

Text: Ezekiel 3:17-21

The LORD told Ezekiel that He had made him a watchman unto the house of Israel. A watchman was stationed on the wall of a city, and his job was to be on constant lookout for danger and to warn the inhabitants of the city when danger was approaching.

Ezekiel's ministry was to tell the truth given to him by God for the correction of His people. God said that the warning the wicked with the truth had the ability to save their lives if they would turn from their iniquity. It also had the power to keep the righteous from turning to iniquity. Then God laid a heavy responsibility on Ezekiel. He said if he failed to warn the people and they died, that he was responsible for their blood.

We live in a world of spiritual darkness and disorder. The only weapon we today against all the deception and depravity is the truth. God is truth. His word is called the word of truth. The Holy Spirit was called by Jesus, "the Spirit of truth". John recorded in the first chapter of his gospel that Jesus Christ was full of grace and truth. The truth is what God has said about any subject whether it be sin, salvation, genders, marriage, family, government, order, authority, righteousness, unrighteousness and abomination.

Our society is confused today because of the rise of relativism, which is the philosophical idea that there is no absolute truth. Truth is relative to the context of culture, timeframe, experience or point of view. That's why you hear people say you must live your truth or speak your truth which may differ from mine, but both are equally valid. Romans 3:4 let God be true and every man a liar.

Without truth, without absolutes...then society into **Isaiah 59:9-10** Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, *but* we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if *we had* no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; *we are* in desolate places as dead *men*. All of this means that where there is no truth, there is no light! Where there is no light, evil breeds and breaks out. When sin is tolerated, it soon becomes accepted, then celebrated and when the truth is spoken against it, it's labeled as hate speech and the messenger is canceled and persecuted.

Jesus said that He was the light of the world because He was the embodiment of truth.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. He explained why He was hated in **John 3:19-20** And this is the

condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. He told Pilate just before His crucifixion that the purpose of His life was to be committed to the truth **John 18:37** Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Charlie Kirk made a statement before a group of students at a college campus that was so on point for the church today. He said we have over-emphasized grace and under-emphasized truth. Yes, Jesus Christ was full of grace, but He was divinely committed to truth. We rejoice in John 8 when the woman taken in the act of adultery was spared being stoned to death, but we should never forget that He said to that same woman “Go and sin no more”.

I understand that we aren't Old Testament prophets like Ezekiel, but I believe there's a responsibility for people who know the truth to speak it. I'm not talking about arguing with people for the sake of winning or being arrogantly right. I'm talking about standing up for the truth when lies are being taught as truth. Here's why we don't: we're afraid – the truth is unpopular, and we'll be marked as despised by many. We value being liked over pleasing God -it's more important to get along because the truth divides. We don't speak up because sin and abomination infiltrated our families which have silenced our tongues. A decade ago, we were against it, today we just don't want to appear judgy. All sin is wrong regardless of who's living in it.

What we need to tell the truth in our day:

- **Conviction** – Conviction is a firmly held belief. We need to be grounded in the truth and sure about it. There's a lot of contrary winds blowing against it today. Peter stood before the same counsel that condemned Jesus to death and said **Acts 4:11-12** This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Most of the apostles died a horrible death because they wouldn't back up on their conviction that they had seen the risen Christ.
- **Compassion** – Even though the truth is despised and people can be cruel; we cannot let that harden our hearts to make us cold and calloused. Jesus has called

insane, demon possessed, born out of wedlock, a deceiver etc. yet He continued to act in grace. John chapter 8 ends with Jesus escaping out of the temple from being stoned for telling the Pharisees the truth. As He passed by He saw a man blind from birth and said “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” and He healed that man of his blindness. We must not let the haters keep us from telling someone the truth that could change their life.

- **Courage** – In Acts chapter 3, Peter and John are going to the temple to pray when they saw a man lame from his mother’s womb who was laid daily at the gate of the temple to ask for alms. The Lord Jesus healed that man instantly of his affliction through the faith and obedience of Peter. The man leaped up and started praising God and a crowd formed. Peter preached the death and resurrection of Christ, five thousand believed and they got arrested. In chapter 4, Peter and John are threatened by the counsel of leaders and elders not to preach in the name of Christ anymore. Peter and John go back to their company and tell them all that happened. **Acts 4:24-31** And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. **Acts 4:33** And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.