

## NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 5/11/2020-5/15/2020

The following content is based on the message on 5/10/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

### MONDAY // WHAT IS TRUTH?

**Read John 18:33-40.** In the last few hours of Jesus' life, He was on trial before Pontius Pilate. Before giving a judgment, Pilate was trying to discern what was true about Jesus. It proved difficult for him because he had multiple voices telling him what to believe. He was distraught, and in a moment of exasperation, Pilate yelled out, "What is truth?" Maybe you feel similarly to Pilate. There are so many competing ideas of truth right now. It is difficult to know what to believe. For Christians, we are able to find stability in the truth of Jesus in spite of the chaotic messages that surround us. Under oath of trial in John 18, Jesus said that He was born for the purpose of bearing witness of the truth.

#### To whom do you turn to find the truth?

- How do the competing messages that you hear make you feel?
- Reflect on the truth of Jesus. Write out some ways that Jesus brings you stability.

### TUESDAY // TRUTH IS IN THE KINGDOM

More than anything else, Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God. Jesus knew that truth is found in the Kingdom of God, not the kingdom of man. According to Francis Schaffer, "Humanism says that man is the measure of all things." However, the Bible tells a different story. It says that truth isn't found in man's pursuits of himself, but truth is only found in man's pursuit of God. One of the beautiful things about God is that He created the world in such a way that we can see the truth about Him revealed to us. God is not hiding the truth from you! **Read Isaiah 45:18-19.**

#### What can be known about God is there for all to see.

- Why is it important for you to recognize that God isn't trying to hide from you?
- Set a five minute timer (or more if you have time). Ask God to reveal Himself to you.

### WEDNESDAY // FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH

**Read John 1:14-18.** In the kingdom of the world, those with the most power most often decide what is "true." When you look only to self or popular opinion for truth, you'll eventually become disillusioned. There is only one place to turn for the ultimate truth. God sent truth in human form to live with us. But Jesus' truth didn't come alone. John says that Jesus came full of both grace and truth. Grace can be defined as: "Showing unmerited kindness toward someone." Truth can be defined as: "The content of that which is true and therefore in accordance with what is actually happening or has happened." If we are truly being like Jesus, then we will seek after both grace and

truth, not just one of those. Grace is difficult for some to show. Truth is difficult for others to handle. Perhaps never before have we needed to walk in grace and truth more than we do now.

#### When you walk in grace and truth, you will likely have enemies on both sides of an issue.

- Write out some ways that you need to show others more grace during this time.
- Write out how you can seek or speak what is true during this time.

### THURSDAY // WISDOM IS TRUTH APPLIED

Yesterday, we were challenged to walk in both grace and truth. You could say that we need wisdom because wisdom is truth applied. But how do we get wisdom? The good news is that wisdom is available to us because God promises that He will give us wisdom when we ask Him. **Read James 1:1-8.** James tells us to "Count it all joy when you face various trials." Wisdom doesn't always come to us in the ways in which we think. Wisdom often comes through trials; but in trials, we are more likely to doubt God. James knows this about humanity. He tells us that we need to ask God for wisdom without doubting. In the middle of trials, we have to remember that God is the source of truth or else we will find ourselves wavering. Faith doesn't say the trial is going away, but faith believes that God will give you wisdom in the trial.

#### We can be certain that when we ask God for wisdom, He will give to us, even if it doesn't look like we imagine.

- Reflect on this statement: "Faith doesn't say the trial is going away, but faith believes that God will give you wisdom in the trial." How is this different to what you normally expect from God?
- Reflect on how this current pandemic is a trial of your faith. Set a five minute timer (or more if you have time) and sit in silence after you ask God for wisdom.

### FRIDAY // JESUS IS THE TRUTH

**Read John 14:1-11.** If we return to the story of Pilate searching for truth, the irony that truth was literally staring at Pilate in the face. In John 14:6, Jesus said that He is the truth. But Pilate couldn't see Jesus as the truth because he was afraid of what it might mean to believe Jesus. The crowds pressured him, and Pilate couldn't take a stand without wavering. He was afraid of the truth. Rather than wavering in the competing messages of this world, our faith needs to rest in the truth of Jesus alone. Even though Jesus was under trial, ultimately Pilate's faith was under trial and he couldn't face the truth. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

- How does the truth of Jesus scare you? What does the truth bring to death in you?
- How does the truth of Jesus comfort you? What does the truth bring to life in you?