



FAMILY STUDY

The Truth Hurts

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"The Truth Hurts"

What is Truth?

As Jesus was facing His execution in John 18:38, after telling the Roman governor Pilate that 'everyone on the side of truth listens to Me,' Pilate asked Jesus, 'What is truth?'

Pilate's reply to Jesus was not so much a question, but a dismissal of the importance of truth. There was an angry mob outside who could start a frenzied riot if Pilate didn't promise to crucify Jesus, regardless of His innocence. What did it matter if Jesus was really the King He said He was? What did the truth matter?

Pilate valued peace more than he valued truth, and because of this, he now stands condemned of sentencing the innocent Savior to death. What would have happened if he had stood for the truth? Would there have been a riot? Would Jesus have been crucified anyway? Would Pilate himself have been put to death by his superiors? Maybe. But in eternity, Pilate could have been with His Creator. A stand for the truth would have caused suffering, but in the end, it would have been worth it.

Consider for a moment the value of the truth. Truth is from God. God is called the 'God of Truth' in Psalm 31:5. Jesus calls Himself the Truth in John 14:6, and the Holy Spirit is called the 'Spirit of Truth' in John 15:26. Everything God says is true, and His Word, the Bible, is 100% true. More than that, the Truth reveals to us our need for a Savior and God's plan for our salvation. It shows us the right way. Without the Truth, we would all be forever lost.

Pilate's question is still valid today. What is truth? What is truth to YOU? What is the truth worth? What are you willing to do for the sake of truth? We encourage you to study the Scripture passages referred to in this Family Study as a family and consider this week what the truth is to you, and may God bless you as you study!

The Source of Truth

The world that insists that truth is relative and different for each person. It is important to realize that this assertion is false. The truth is absolute, and while the application of the truth may differ in some instances, it is God, NOT US, who determines what is true. The following Scripture passages point out the truth and trustworthiness of God's Word.

Proverbs 30:5 Ephesians 1:13 2 Timothy 2:15
Daniel 10:21 Colossians 1:5-6 2 Timothy 3:16
John 17:17

Opposition to the Truth

If the truth is God and His Word, why does the world turn away from it? Unfortunately, the world has bought into a lie. They think that it is better to follow their own wants and desires instead of God's. As a result, many not only turn away from God's Truth, they FIGHT it.

Job 24:17 Romans 1:25 2 Timothy 4:3-4
John 3:19-21 2 Timothy 2:10-12

Must We Suffer for the Truth?

Because the people of the world have rejected the truth, they have a desire to make everyone else reject God's truth as well. Maybe it makes them feel better. Maybe they think if we all turn away from God, we can make Him go away and leave us alone. Whatever the reason, the world will turn against those who love the truth of God. Mark 13:13 says 'All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.' At some point in our lives, we will suffer ridicule and persecution to some degree for our Christianity.

Psalm 119:86 Mark 13:9 Luke 21:12
Matthew 5:11 Luke 11:49 John 15:20

Our Attitudes About Suffering for the Truth

As with Pilate, none of us want to face suffering. In the face of suffering, we may even question the value of the Truth as Pilate did. However, the Truth is given to us so that we can be saved from eternal torment, and those of us who know the Truth have a responsibility to God, to ourselves, and to those who God loves (the unsaved) to stand for God's Truth. And in a world that has set itself against God's Truth, those who take a stand will face suffering of one kind or another.

So, how should we handle this? As strange as it may seem, we should rejoice! This is not to say that suffering will be enjoyable, but it will be short-lived compared to the rewards that will follow. God's Word tells us that we will be rewarded for suffering for Christ, and that we should chose to be joyful when we suffer for the Truth.

Acts 5:41 James 1:2-4 1 Peter 3:13-17
Acts 16:22-26 James 1:12 1 Peter 4:12-19

God Will Give Us the Strength

Even though we may have to face hard times every now and then, God will either protect us or give us the strength to endure. John 8:51 tells us 'I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.' This verse is referring to spiritual death. Sometimes people will suffer physical death for the sake of God, but this is far better than anyone suffering eternal death. God will most likely never ask us to die for His sake, but if He does He will use your life as a witness to bring others to know Him. God will protect us during our trials. He will not allow us to suffer more than we can handle. He will give us the strength to endure.

Exodus 14:13 John 8:32 1 Corinthians 16:16
Jeremiah 1:17 1 Corinthians 15:58 Ephesians 6:13

In Conclusion

God's Truth makes the world uncomfortable, and so the world has set itself up against it. As a result, those who stand for the Truth will face opposition and persecution. But God's Truth is worth the fight. The eternal destinies of those who need to know the Truth are worth it. The rewards you'll receive in eternity are worth it. The Truth may hurt, but the rewards last forever.