

## TRUTH TELLER

Why did Jesus change the world?

He \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 1.14:** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We beheld his glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Grace comes** \_\_\_\_\_.

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Because real change does not occur in our lives unless we deal with the truth about who we are, what we’re doing and why we’re doing it.

**John 8.31-32:** Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**Step 4 of the 12 Steps:** Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

**Fyodor Dostoyevsky:** The important thing is to stop lying to yourself. A man who lies to himself, and believes his own lies, becomes unable to recognize truth, either in himself or in anyone else, and he ends up losing respect for himself as well as for others. When he has no respect for anyone, ...in order to divert himself, ...he yields to his impulses, indulges in the lowest forms of pleasure, and behaves in the end like an animal, in satisfying his vices. And it all comes from lying—lying to others and to yourself.

To be like our MasterTeacher Jesus, we must be men who give grace, and we must be men who speak the truth.

But speaking the truth does not give us carte blanche to say what we \_\_\_\_\_ we need to say.

It means we have a responsibility to say what the other person \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus spoke different words to people depending on where they were in life.

To be like him we’ll have to be sensitive to where people are and the word they need to hear.

### WHAT WORDS DID JESUS SPEAK?

#### 1. WORDS OF \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 6.34:** When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he was moved by compassion because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

The same compassion that caused Jesus to heal the sick and feed the hungry caused him to begin “teaching them many things.”

Jesus taught beautiful truths that comforted and encouraged people.

**Matthew 6.25-30:** Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. ... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

The most important word in that passage? \_\_\_\_\_

Before the coming of Jesus, individual Jews did not call God “Father.”

But he revealed that the God of the universe relates to us as a loving Father who believes we are valuable, cares for us, wants to provide for us, and wants a \_\_\_\_\_ with us.

**Luke 15.20-24:** His father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

The word of Jesus to the masses was a word of compassion.

That’s where we begin with others – with words of love and grace.

## 2. WORDS OF \_\_\_\_\_

God loves us the way we are, but he loves us too much to leave us that way.

So Jesus confronted people with their sin and their need to get right.

### **JESUS AND THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY**

**John 8.7:** Whoever is without sin, let him throw the first stone.

**John 8.11:** Go, and sin no more.

Rather than being harsh, Jesus is telling this woman: “You can \_\_\_\_\_: you can overcome your past and live a new life.”

### **JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED BROTHER**

**Luke 12.13:** Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.

**Luke 12:15:** Look out! Beware of greed in all its forms; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

This is Jesus saying, “Maybe you’ve been done wrong, but don’t let it make you wrong inside.”

Sometimes the most compassionate thing you can do is help someone \_\_\_\_\_ what they

don't recognize about themselves.

### **JESUS AND THE PARALYZED MAN**

**John 5.14:** Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

Jesus corrects him not to condemn him, but to make him as whole \_\_\_\_\_ as he now is physically.

Why did Jesus speak difficult truths into the lives of people?

Because people need the truth in order to grow spiritually and emotionally.

Why did Jesus at times speak truth so straightforwardly, even maybe a little harshly?

Because most of us will do all we can to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth we need to hear.

**Herbert Agar:** The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.

God never reveals truth to us about someone else's life so we can shake a finger in his face and tell him how bad he is, but so we can put an arm around his shoulder and tell him how \_\_\_\_\_ he can become.

When we speak words of correction, they must always come from a place of genuine concern for that person.

But there **will** be times when we will need to tell the truth to the people we care about.

Because people need the truth.

### **3. WORDS OF \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus rebuked his disciples, but rarely.

But Jesus saved his real ire for the leaders of the day because they were \_\_\_\_\_ people about who God was and what he desired of them.

They were doing damage to the people Jesus had come to save.

**Luke 23.15, 23-27:** Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and ... you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are. 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. ... Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like white-washed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

When those in authority misrepresent God and mislead people and do damage to their souls, whether they are leaders in government or leaders in the church, it's wrong to be \_\_\_\_\_.

When there's evil, when powerful people do wrong, and when religious figures do

damage to the body of Christ, it's not \_\_\_\_\_ to be silent.

**The Woodlands United Methodist Church**  
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