



## Life Group Study Notes

### “The Human Right: Truth is a Person”

Ps. James Lowe - April 15, 2018

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- If you could spend one hour with any non-biblical historical person, who would it be?
- If you could spend one hour with anyone alive today, who would it be?
- Who is someone other than family that you like to spend time with, and why?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

#### **Key Quote:**

Isaiah 59:14-17 ESV *Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.*

As in Isaiah's day, we live in a time when truth is no longer embraced in our society. Throughout history humans have repeatedly turned away from the truth and sought to redefine themselves and their world apart from God and his will. Sadly, our departures from truth always lead to our own ruin. God's righteousness and justice are ultimately for our good, even if they bring us discomfort and pain in the short run. It is our own sin and the sins of our fellow humans that bring so many ills into our families and societies. The irony is that people are upset because of the injustices done to them, but seldom want to deal with their own unrighteousness before God and toward other people.

All human injustice is displeasing to God. He is perfect righteousness and is opposed to all evil. Yet in spite of this, he does not immediately smash the entire human race into oblivion. He has appointed a day when he will judge the entire human race, everyone who has ever lived, the dead and the living. Everyone, one by one, will stand alone before God to give a full account of their lives. No one will escape. Every deed, word,

motive, attitude, and thought will be reviewed in the light of God's holy perfection. But God has not merely postponed the inevitable judgement each of us will face, he also has stepped into human history to deal with all of our sins, unrighteousness, and injustices in advance of the Final Judgement. Taking human nature to himself as the man, Jesus of Nazareth, he lived a perfectly sinless and righteous life. Taking our sins upon himself, he exchanged his righteousness for our sinfulness. He offers this gift of reconciliation to us, so that we might be free from fear of the Final Judgement.

John 14:1-9 ESV *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."*

Jesus came to reveal God to his sinful human creatures and to execute his plan of redemption for them. He is the fulfillment of God's promise made through Isaiah to come into this world of sins and injustices, and bring about God's righteousness and salvation. On behalf of sinful humanity, Jesus claimed not to be "a" truth about God, or to be "a" way to God, or to be "a" manifestation of the life of God. Instead, he explicitly and exclusively claimed to be THE truth about God, and THE way to God, and THE manifestation of God's life. Jesus not only provided the only means of reconciliation with God, he came to lead us back into our divinely intended eternal purpose with God.

Our response to Jesus and to the truth revealed through him is the most important decision we will ever make. Our eternal destiny hinges upon it. Thomas initially doubted the truth concerning Jesus. He had not rejected Jesus, but had not fully embraced the revelation that had come through him. Jesus plainly instructed him that he was the truth and the manifestation of God to humans. Jesus' intent was not merely to inform Thomas, but to persuade him to choose the truth; that is, to embrace Jesus as God, who was stepping into our world to deal with our sin and unrighteousness and injustices, in order that we might be reconciled to God and be restored to his eternal purpose for us.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What does it mean to say that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life"?
- Why is it important for people to learn about Jesus?
- What should we aim to teach people about Jesus?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for the revelation he has given us of himself through Jesus.
- Ask God for greater understanding of Jesus and your duty to him.
- Ask God for a greater sense responsibility to tell others about Jesus.