

## Truth on Trial

John 18:11-38

#55 in John Series

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### Prayer

Lord, thank you that you are the prophet; you are the priest; you are the king, and you have descended into our hearts where you speak with us—communicate with us every moment. In Jesus' name, help us Lord God to hear you now, to see you, Amen.

### Sermon

Do you ever wonder who's telling the truth? Jesus, Buddha, Mohamed?  
Is it the Christians, Jews, Hindus, or maybe the atheists?

Do you ever wonder whether or not all this Jesus stuff is true?  
Maybe some guy just made the whole thing up?

Clip from the film *The Invention of Lying*

[The clip opens with a live crowd of people waiting then. It then switches to people from all over the world tuned into their televisions to watch some breaking news.]

Narrator: "He was just your typical nobody writer. Today people are saying he has new information about what happened after he died."

[The scene changes once again to a man walking out of a door to speak to a crowd outside on the lawn in front of the building.]

Mark Bellison: You heard about the stuff that I told my mom the other night, that's why you're here. I know some things, some very important things about what happens to you after you die. [A crowd is listening and watching the man that is speaking very attentively.]

Mark Bellison: Everything you need to know is written on these pizza boxes.

[The scene pans back to the crowds listening Mark holds up the pizza boxes and talking in amazed tones. He puts the two pizza boxes together in a stack and starts to read the top one.]

John Bellison: Number one, there is a man in the sky who controls everything.

Guy #1 in crowd: (raises his hand) Does he live in a cloud?

Mark Bellison: No

Guy #2: Could we see him? (Points skyward)

Mark Bellison: No.

(A view of some clouds in a blue sky is shown overhead.)

Mark Bellison: It's high in the clouds, too high to see it.

Guy #2: So he lives in space.

Mark Bellison: Not that high!

Guy #3: So then, the thermosphere?

Mark Bellison: Sorry people, I've got a lot to get through here. Could we just . . .

(crowd murmurs are heard)

Mark Bellison: The man lives in the sky; you can't see him; he controls everything. Cool? Good. Number two, when you die, you don't disappear into an eternity of nothingness. Instead, you go to a really great place.

Crowd: Wow!

Crowd: (murmurs in approval) oh, ho, ho!

Mark Bellison: Number three, in that place, everyone will get a mansion.

(Crowd cheers in approval. claps)

Mark Bellison: (clears throat) *Number four, when you die, all the people you love will be there. Number five, (sighs) when you die, there will be free ice cream for everyone,*  
 (Big smiles in crowd and approving noises are heard)  
 Mark Bellison: *all day and all night, whatever flavors you can think of.*  
 Older woman: *Even bad flavors?*  
 Mark Bellison: *Why would you think of bad flavors?*  
 Older woman: *You just said every flavor I could think of.*  
 Guy in suit and sweater vest: *Oh no! I just thought of vanilla and skunks!*  
 Mark Bellison: *Well, don't eat that, then!*  
 Young woman: *I just thought that chocolate sauce was diarrhea!*  
 Mark Bellison: *Well don't put that on the ice cream then! What is the matter with you people? Can we, . . please . . .*  
 Number six, if you do bad things, you don't get to go to this great place when you die.  
 Older guy: *Where will you go?*  
 Mark Bellison: *A, . . .a terrible place, the worst place imaginable.*  
 Another woman: *What constitutes a bad thing?*  
 Mark Bellison: *Awful crimes, rape, murder, things like that. Can we?*  
 Young man: *If I did, just one bad thing, do I go to that place?*  
 Mark Bellison: *No. . . You get, . . three chances. Three bad things and you're out.*  
 Young man: *Like baseball!*  
 Crowd: (nods in understanding) *Ahhh!*  
 Mark Bellison: *So, anything else?*  
 Crowd: *Yeah!* (Everyone raises their hand)  
 Mark Bellison: *Ah, could we just move on?*  
 Black hatted guy: *No! We have to know everything that's bad!*  
 Crowd: *Yeah!* (Yells and crowd shouts questions)  
 Mark Bellison: *Fine* (Points to man in blue shirt and sports coat.)  
 Man in blue shirt and sports coat: *Is it bad to wear pants?*  
 Mark Bellison: *AH!* (He murmurs in complaint)  
 [Sign on screen is shown, saying "TWO HOURS LATER."]  
 Mark Bellison: (hoarse voice) *No, there is no hairstyle that can put you in the bad place. Okay. Number nine, the man in the sky who controls everything decides if you go to the good place or the bad place. He also decides who lives and who dies.*  
 Man: *Does he cause natural disasters?*  
 Mark Bellison: *Yes.*  
 (Crowd murmurs in dismay)  
 Woman: *Did he cause my mom to get cancer?*  
 Mark Bellison: *Yes. Okay? Number ten, even if the man in the sky does bad things to you, he makes up for it by giving you an eternity of good stuff after you die.*  
 Crowd: *Ohh!* (approvingly.)  
 Woman #2: *As long as you don't do any of that bad stuff that you mentioned, right?*  
 Mark Bellison: *Yeah, of course.*  
 Woman #3: *So it's kind of a test?*  
 [Crowd murmurs]  
 Mark Bellison: *Yeah* (nods). *Well that's, . . . that's everything I know!*  
 (Crowd clapping and cheering.)  
 [Scene returns to all who were watching via television.]

That's Ricky Gervais playing Mark Bellison in his recent comedy, *The invention of Lying*.

Mark lives in a world where people can only tell the truth, for they have no concept of not telling the truth. But one day, Mark realizes that he has the ability to manipulate truth by telling lies. He finds that lying can be very useful when making money and impressing women, who would normally want nothing to do with him. As his mom dies, he invents a lie to make her feel better.

Someone overhears the lie and then the whole world wants to know “the truth” about the man in the sky. Mark writes down the ten points on tablets – that is pizza boxes – which he then shares with the world. In other words, he invents religion and it’s a lie.

It’s a hilarious movie; comedy is often the truth exposing lies. I mean, we really do invent religion. And we really do create God in our own image, and for our own purposes. But, that doesn’t mean there is no God, just that if there is a God, we might try to crucify Him. That is, reject the Truth for the truth we invented.

The movie is hilarious, insightful, and yet profoundly absurd for several reasons. I’ll just mention three. At the end of the movie, Mark tells someone, “There is no man in the sky.” Well, . . .

1. How does Mark know that there is no man in the sky? How does he know there is no God?<sup>1</sup>
2. Even though people do invent a “man in the sky,” I can’t picture them inventing Jesus. “*Pick up a cross and follow me*” just isn’t all that attractive. And unlimited furious grace for all just isn’t a very useful lie. Liars invent religions of law with systems of punishment and reward in order to benefit themselves and manipulate others. They invent bondage, not freedom.
3. And this is my point: “The invention of lying” assumes the “existence of truth,” for there can be no lies without truth. And so, the entire movie begs this question, “What is truth?”

Some people (like atheists) like to say, “There is no absolute truth.” If someone says to you, “There is no absolute truth,” ask them, “Is that the truth? Absolutely?” You see, if it’s not absolutely true that there is no absolute truth, then there is absolute truth. And if it is absolutely true that there is no absolute truth, we’re claiming an absolute truth that is obviously a lie, which means there must be absolute truth.

You see, we all constantly assume truth with every thought we think and every word we speak, And yet, we can’t prove truth, for what would we prove truth with? The truth?

Now, we can ask if particular things are true, but we can’t prove that. We can’t put truth on trial, for as soon as we ask the question, “Is truth true” we’ve assumed the answer. Actually, we can’t even ask a question without faith in truth, for every question is this question, “What is true?” And it assumes it absolutely or you wouldn’t ask the question.

If truth is only *your* truth, then it’s not “truth.” It’s just another word for you, and you are totally alone. There’s no point in talking to anyone, for the words can’t be true. Actually, there is no word, for there is no truth. You are your own little dark and absurd universe. Psychologists call it insanity. I think the Bible calls it *Hades*, or hell, the absence of truth. And here’s the kicker: if we try to judge the truth we are assuming that we are the truth. So, in the presence of real truth our absurd selves would disappear like bugs in a fire.

“What is truth?” Well, we know what truth does: truth connects ideas, all science and technology is based on truth; and truth connects people, all society is based on truth. We have

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<sup>1</sup> “It has often struck me with awe,” writes Madeleine Le’Engle “that some of the most deeply religious people I know have been, on the surface, atheists. Atheism is a peculiar state of mind; you cannot deny the existence of that which does not exist. I cannot say ‘the chair is not there,’ if there is no chair there to say it about.” Now philosophers argue about that. It’s called the ontological argument. But atheism is a very peculiar state of mind. “

knowledge of truth: we know what truth does, but what truth is . . . that's an entirely different sort of question.

Well, in *The Invention of Lying*, Mark realizes that by lying he can get what he wants, but then, doesn't want what he gets, for what he gets doesn't count. It's like it's not real and he is profoundly alone. He wants the girl. And he can get the girl by lying, by telling her "it's the will of the man in the sky," and that his genetics won't produce fat kids with snub noses.

He can lie (He has the knowledge of good and evil), but by the end of the story, he wants the truth and so freely chooses the truth; for now he sees that unless the word of love is truth, it doesn't count. His life and her life wouldn't be life, but empty illusion. He sees a profoundly Biblical idea: truth in love and love in truth is all that counts. Actually, it's what makes a man an *adam*.

Clip from *The Invention of Lying*

[The clip opens outside a white chapel in a yard.]

Girl (in wedding dress): *Why don't you just tell me what the man in the sky wants.*

Mark Bellison: *I did a bad thing.*

Girl: *It's okay, you're allowed three.*

Mark Bellison: *No, you don't understand. Uh . . . There is no man in the sky.*

Girl: *How did you say something that wasn't ?*

Mark Bellison: *I don't know. I just did and I just can.*

Girl: *But when I asked you if being rich, and successful, and famous changed your genetics, why didn't you just say yes?*

Mark Bellison: *Because it wouldn't count.*

Girl: *Mark, I know what I want.*

(Mark sighs and nods in disappointment.)

Girl: *I want little fat kids with snub noses.*

[They smile at each other as the music plays and "Here we go again" is sung. And the scene changes to them holding hands while facing each other in front of the chapel.]

That's sweet and absurd.

See? The entire movie is the rejection of God in the name of truth. In John 14: 6, Jesus just said, "*I am . . . the truth.*" Do you see what a game changer that is?

Jesus is the Word of love, He is truth. John 17: 7, "*God's word is truth.*"

I John 4, "*God is love*" so, the Word of Love is Truth.

John 1, "*All things were made through him,*" (that Word)

So everything that's anything is utterly dependent on that Word

And connected by that Word.

John 1: 14, "*The word became flesh and dwelt among us*"

We wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger.

Jesus said, "*I am . . . the truth.*"

Buddha claimed that his **philosophy** was true.

Mohammed claimed that his **words** were true.

Moses claimed that the **law** was true, and it is.

But Jesus claimed, "***I am the truth.***"

That's a game changer. That's a crisis, for no one can prove or disprove that statement. That's a crisis, (in Greek – *Krisis*), that is the judgment. You can't try the truth, but the truth constantly tries you. You can't test the truth, but the truth is testing you.

Jesus didn't just say "This stuff is true." He said, "*I am the truth.*" "The truth, I am."

So, any truth in Buddhism - is Jesus.

Any truth in Islam - is Jesus.

Any truth in Judaism and the Law - is Jesus.

Any truth in any statement is Jesus. John 1: 9, "*He is the Light that enlightens every one.*"

Any honest question seeks the truth and thus seeks Jesus.

And any lie that twists the truth and denies the truth twists Jesus and denies Jesus.

Every lie crucifies Jesus.

"*I am the truth,*" said Jesus and you may say, "I don't buy it." To which I say, "Okay, then tell me, 'What is truth?'" I think you'll have a hell of a time finding an answer.

Well, John tells us, "*God is love*" and "*His Word is truth.*" If God is truth and truth is God, then to even ask the question, "Is there a God?" is to already confess the answer, "Yes, there is." Then Ricky Gervais can't even make a movie about atheism without assuming the existence of God in every frame.

See? In this world, you can deny truth, reject truth, even crucify the Truth, but eventually you'll crash into truth—Jesus is Truth.

One stormy night many years ago, the captain of a ship looked into the dark night and saw a faint light in the distance, distant, but approaching fast. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message: "Alter your course ten degrees south." Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course ten degrees north." The captain was angered: His command had been ignored. So he sent a second message: "Alter your course ten degrees south – I am the captain." Soon another message was received: "Alter your course ten degrees north – I am seaman third class Jones." Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course ten degrees south – I am a battleship." Then the reply came: "Alter your course ten degrees north – I am a lighthouse.

That's a game changer. God is Light and Jesus is the Light of the world. Jesus is the rock and Jesus said, "I am the truth."

The Truth is true no matter what you do.

In John chapter 18, Jesus, the Truth, is put on trial and the whole world careens into the lighthouse. Prophets, priests, and kings put the truth on trial and the truth tries them. They judge the truth and the truth judges them. Finally, Pilate exclaims, "What is truth?"

Kierkegaard writes,

Poor Pilate! Pilate's question is the most foolish and confusing question ever asked by man. If I were to ask someone standing right in front of me, 'Do you exist?' How could that person reply?

Perhaps the Truth is all around you, but how should he reply?

Well, Pilate is trying to judge the truth, but the truth judges Pilate and Annas and Caiaphas, and the crowd, and Peter and Ricky Gervais, and us. In John 18: 11-38, the inventors of religion – that is men set on twisting truth and using truth crash into the truth, crash into the lighthouse. How does one not see a lighthouse?

John 18:11 (ESV) (where we left off last time) They came to the garden to take Jesus, the Truth. Peter cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant.

*So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"*

The last two sermons, we preached about the cup, saying life is like a series of cups that the Lord hands us. The events of our life form the cup. And to drink the cup is to receive every moment by "*grace through faith*." And to reject the cup, is to choose what isn't - darkness and the void. Every moment, every cup is different, and yet . . . every cup in Scripture, that the Lord hands someone (bowls of wrath, and cups of blessing) they all appear to contain the same thing. One thing we're called to drink in every moment . . . Now hold that thought, - next verse

John 18:12-14

*So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.*

Caiaphas spoke perhaps the greatest prophecy of the Old Testament era. He was a prophet and the high priest (after his father-in-law, Annas). He was appointed high priest by the Roman governor, who governed as king. Prophet, priest and king, those are the offices of Old Testament religion. In John's vision, The Revelation, John saw that Jesus is the prophet, the high priest, the king of kings. And he is the judge on the throne, a slaughtered Lamb. John has shown us Jesus is "the judge who judges - by not judging." But, make no mistake, - that is the judgment. Jesus is the rock and the lighthouse.

John 18: 15-17 (ESV)

*Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said "I am not."*

Peter lied. He denied the Truth. He denied I AM. But I'm sure it just felt like a little lie told to a slave girl at a door in order to follow Jesus into the courtyard. Peter tried to serve the Truth by denying the Truth . . . just a little. Ever done that? You think, "Just a little lie and I'll create so much good."

John 18: 17-20 (ESV)

*Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret."*

He hangs on a tree for the whole world to see. The Truth is a lighthouse; it is not a secret.

John 18: 21-23 (ESV)

*"Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong, but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"*

They thought a man's position determined "the truth." But there is no higher authority than "the truth." Each of us must give account to "the Truth" enthroned in our hearts (John 18: verse 24).

John 18: 24-27 (ESV)

*Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?"*  
(They said to him, not one person, now the group)

Peter's lie grows.

*One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off (a fellow who would be interested in retaliation) asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him? Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed."*

Earlier that night, Peter had told Jesus that he would follow Him and even die for Him while Jesus prophesied his denial. Peter must've thought, "Hey, I'm the captain of my own soul." And I have judged, "I have decided to follow Jesus." And that night, Peter hit the Lighthouse.

John 18: 28 (ESV)

*Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.<sup>2</sup>*

So focused on Passover law, they crucify the Passover. Obsessed with laws *about* truth, they crucify the Truth. With the knowledge of good, they crucify the Good. They sail into the Lighthouse—the Judgment of God.

John 18:29 (ESV)

*So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"*

Pilate was Caesar's representative. He was king. He was political power.

John 18: 30 (ESV)

*They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."*

We is the crowd. We is the popular vote. We is the democracy. They had wanted their laws to judge the truth. They had wanted religious authority to judge the Truth and they wanted political power to judge the Truth because none of them wanted to face the Truth. They each wanted to be prophet, priest, and king so they wouldn't face the Prophet, Priest and King. They each wanted to judge the Truth so they wouldn't be judged *by* the Truth. They had invented a religion of lies to hide from the presence of the Truth. We all do it. "The invention of lying" happened in a Garden long ago – We all do it. And the one we lie to most is ourselves.

Well, just because some law says that something is good, that doesn't make it good. Just because a religious authority says something is true, that doesn't make it true. And just because a political power tells you that lust, greed, warfare, abortion, and divorce are fine, that doesn't mean that they are. And just because the mob chants, "Crucify him, crucify him," that doesn't mean you should. And if you think it does . . . you're sailing into the Lighthouse. We each must stand before the judgment seat of Truth: the Light of the world lifted up from the earth – the Truth.

John 18:31-34

*Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "it is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"*

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<sup>2</sup> Scholars debate whether that means Passover or Passover feast, which would last the whole week. They debate whether John is telling us Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples on Thursday night, or was crucified on the Passover, which fell on Friday, the following day. Whatever the case, Jesus is the Passover.



Jesus stood before Pilate, or perhaps, Pilate stood before Jesus.

*Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own account, or did others say it to you about me?"*

Jesus questions Pilate. He wants to know: "Pilate what do you say?" Not, "What do the Jews say or what do Caesar or the laws say. He wants to know...

Pilate what do you say?

Do you recognize me – Pilate?

You can't judge the Truth, like knowledge you take from a tree in a garden; the Truth is not a thing for you to comprehend and judge. You can't judge the Truth, but you can know the Truth – now. You can know the truth, for the Truth knows you. In fact, the Truth has already judged you. The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the earth. The Truth has already judged you. Pilate, you just haven't seen it.

But now, let's be honest...

*"We've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."*

*"We're already dead in our trespasses and sins,"*

We've already slammed into the Lighthouse, and check this out: We've *already* been judged.

It happened on a tree in a garden where we tried to judge the Way, the Truth, and the Life, but the Way, the Truth, and the Life judged us. Lifted up from the earth, the Light of the World cried, *"Father forgive,"* and there we slammed into the Lighthouse, and the Lighthouse didn't change, and *yet* the Lighthouse moved, the Rock moved. The Rock moves for us, the Rock bleeds for us, He always bleeds for us. Jesus is the Truth and the Truth bleeds for us. Jesus is the Word of God. He is the Word of Love. The Truth is Love speaking to us – bleeding for us. The Truth is Grace—the unchanging, yet ever-flowing—ever moving river of Grace that flows from the throne. An unbeliever hasn't seen it yet; a believer has just caught a glimpse!

Well, that night, Peter judged the Truth, and thus denied the Truth, and was shattered upon the Truth—the Rock and the Lighthouse. Yet in a few days, Peter sat on a beach next to the Rock, next to Jesus risen from the dead. And Jesus, the Truth, did not ask him, "Peter do you know what you did wrong?" Instead, three times he asked, *"Peter, do you love me?"* Let me paraphrase, "Peter, do you now see me? Did you see my love? Peter, did you drink from the river? Now do you love me?"

The truth is a Person who wants to be loved. Do you think he's impressed that you've examined the evidence and judged Him to be true? "I've decided the Truth is True!" Hear the arrogance? *"I have decided to follow Jesus."* That's what Peter told Jesus the night he denied him three times and was shattered on the Rock.

The Truth doesn't want to be judged.

He wants to be known.

He wants you to love him as he has loved you.

Three times, on the beach, Peter answered, *“Lord, you know I love you,”* and then he changed his course. He didn’t judge the Truth and use the Truth. He loved the Truth and wouldn’t deny the Truth, for he longed to be *with* the Truth no matter what. According to legend, he was crucified outside of Rome because he wouldn’t deny the Truth. In fact, he ran back to Rome to be with the Truth on a cross.

Why should you speak truth?

Listen to truth?

And walk in truth?

Why should you?

Well, . . . I’m not sure “you should,” but don’t you want to?  
Or haven’t you seen Him? Jesus is the Truth.

And you see, this world really is a test, but not so that God can see something about you, but that you would see something about Him and fall in love with Him.

He is love in Truth and Truth in Love.

He is Grace.

Truth is the Word of Love spoken to you – Jesus.

John 18: 24-36 (ESV)

*Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”*

It’s the Kingdom of Truth, and it’s not advanced with guns, and tanks, and swords, but something else.

John 18: 37 (ESV)

*Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king.”*

**“You say that I am a king.”** Was Jesus mocking Pilate? No. He knows that Pilate is beginning to see and yet, the Truth is judging him, the Truth is burning him. Jesus says, *“You say that I am a king.”*

*“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”*

In John 5: 25, Jesus said, *“all who hear my voice will live.”* John 5: 28, *“All who are in the temple will hear my voice and come out,”* some to the resurrection of life – *rejoicing* in truth, and some to the resurrection of judgment – *burned* by the Truth. It doesn’t mean that the burning is endless, but that eventually we all must face the Truth.

Well, Pilate must've been listening . . . but the truth burned, so Pilate said to Jesus, the Truth, *"What is truth?"* Fredrich Buechner writes,

"The crazy Zen monk holds a stick in his hand and says, 'What have I got in my hands?' The disciple, seeking truth, but only a particular truth, answers, 'It's a stick.' Then the monk hits the disciple over the head with the stick and says, 'No, that's what it is,' or doesn't even bother to say it. Pilate asks Jesus, *"What is truth?"* Is it what Plato said, or Aquinas said, or Tillich said? And what Jesus hits Pilate over the head with is Pilate himself."

That is Pilate's life.

That is Jesus in Pilate's life.

That is Jesus in Pilate's cup, not to know about—but to know.

That is "The Truth" – now, the Truth in Pilate's face – in his cup.

*"Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has for me?"*

Now, let's come back to that thought, I asked you to hold. As we were saying, there are a gazillion different cups and yet, the same thing in every cup. Look throughout the Old Testament and throughout the New Testament, John saw it in the Revelation: the same thing in every cup, every bowl, it's blood – blood that's wine and wine that's blood – it's Jesus' life. Jesus is the Word of Love and Jesus is the Truth and the Truth is Grace. Nothing could be more obvious than Grace, yet, in this world, nothing is more denied than Grace. If God made everything from nothing with His Word, then you didn't make yourself. And every cup is Grace and that's the Truth.

So, if I run from the Truth, I am not. And I hide myself no where and nothing in the tombs in hell, and if I judge the truth, which is making myself, truth, thus hating the truth, the truth burns my self like fire. BUT if I surrender to the Truth, and fall in love with Truth, I walk in life – eternal life – that which is truly real, and I'm home.

Every moment surrender your judgment to the Truth. That's called honesty.

Every moment love the Truth and so know the Truth *"and the truth will set you free."*

Jesus is the Truth. Never deny Truth.

But the idea that we judge the Truth and make ourselves the truth...

Well, that is the "Invention of Lying," and the recipe for hell.

Emma was a Jew and a holocaust survivor who regularly, at 4 p.m. each day, stood outside a Manhattan church and screamed insults at Jesus. (She judged the Truth and lived in hell.) Finally, the pastor, Bishop C Kitmer Myrs went outside and said to Emma, "Why don't you go inside and tell Him?" Be honest with Him. She disappeared into the church. An hour went by. Now worried, the bishop decided to look in on Emma. He found her prostrate before the cross, absolutely still. Reaching down, he touched her shoulder. She looked up with tears in her eyes and said quietly, "After all, he was a Jew, too." She saw the Truth in her cup. She saw the Truth, stopped judging the Truth, the Truth judged her and set her free.

## **Communion**

On the night that we tried the Truth, the night when Jesus was delivered up to judgment, He took bread saying, *"This is my body given to you; take and eat it, and do it in remembrance of me."* And in the same way after supper, He took a cup and said, *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood."* It's the "eternal covenant," says the book of Hebrews. It's the covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. *"Drink of it, all of you."* What is it in the cup? The Truth. The love of God poured out for you, if you want it. This is God's judgment. This is God's Word – the Word of Love, which creates all and connects all. He wants you! Come to the table. Tear off a piece of bread and dip it in the cup.

## **Prayer**

Pray this prayer now with me, in your heart: "Lord Jesus, I surrender my judgments to you." Now, in His name, let's worship.

*Several worship songs are sung.*

We praise you because you are the Truth. And we see that when we come to this table, the Truth is our friend. Lord Jesus, there is no one that I would rather have as Truth. You are the Truth. And we've spent our entire lives running from Truth. Every time we sin, every time we lie, and now you reveal to us that the Truth is our constant friend.

May we delight in you. May we live honest lives because the Truth has been honest to us, and loved us, and redeemed us from the pit. Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are the Truth, and you are the Way.

Honesty is the Way.

    You are the Life.

        Honesty is the way to Life.

            You are it Jesus.

                We worship you and thank you. Amen.

## **Benediction**

And now I'd like to share something that, I think, is profoundly simple. And yet, it's earth shattering when you really get it.

Salvation is simply accepting the Truth (Remember Jesus is the Truth).

Salvation is simply accepting the Truth that you have been created.

Salvation is simply accepting the Truth (and even that accepting is not of yourself that none may boast.) Salvation is simply accepting the Truth that you have been created.

    And we are to accept that truth every moment.

Salvation is an honest life; an honest life is eternal life.

Salvation is accepting the Truth of your own creation.

    Ephesians 2: 8-9, *"We have been created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

You are free! In Jesus' name believe the gospel. Amen.

*Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.*