

Truth or Consequences

John 8:31-32 ... So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

When we look at today's society, and by that we mean the United States of America as a microcosm, each day is filled with results which come from adherence to truth, or falling prey to falsehood.

In a world where God calls us to love him above all and to love your neighbor as yourself, the opposite is happening in place after place. Our nation is divided politically and spiritually, and it is the spiritual which shall resurrect the core of who we really are once again.

Non-believing voices are becoming louder, and believers are not speaking up as the majority that they are. We must re-discover the value of seeking ultimate truth as opposed to our own reasoning which can only go as far as the clouds. There is a divine truth which will bring us together, and lead us away from the disastrous consequences which the world careens haphazardly towards.

The first step, surprisingly simple, is a return to God's word. The principles of the Bible, the best-selling book of all time, have founded and transformed countries for centuries. When we re-discover the scriptures, and go to the places where they are taught and practiced, we will find truth and unity. We will find a way to love those with whom we disagree, and a common path which only God can provide.

Take the case of the young man who knew enough about life to prey on the well wishes of his supervisor, but not the unintended consequences he might have to suffer.

A young man came to his boss and asked for the day off to attend his grandmother's funeral. His boss said, "Sure."

The next day the young man was talking to his boss. The boss said, "Do you believe in resurrection from the dead?"

Young man, "Yes."

"Interesting, because after you left work yesterday, your grandmother came to visit you!"

You see he had the basic idea of faith, but not the principle that truth yields truth. He thought he acted in a vacuum, but found that his world was wider than he had thought.

That is true for most of us. We make the choice to attend or not attend church based on worldly reasons, and withdraw because those expectations are not met. We go to church, for instance, to

have contact with godly people and withdraw because we didn't get enough attention. The reality is that we have to be there to have the contact to have fellowship, nurture, and a common bond. If we all withdrew because we did not get what we wanted, there would be nobody there.

We go to church to see Jesus. He speaks, listens, and leads us to the Father God and Holy Spirit which radiate out to people in whom God dwells. The problem today is that many do not even see the need to meet Jesus, and try to fill the void in their lives with other things. Possessions, personal happiness, family, friendships, entertainment, and more. Filling that void with any other thing than God will never be enough.

This slope is made even more slippery by sin. Personal gratification, selfish thinking, and worldly values will never take us to heaven. They just make us want more.

Truth and consequences are highlighted by the miracle of Easter. In looking upon the risen and eternal Christ, we find life. In looking anywhere else, we find death.

"Easter" writes Michael Leunig "is not limited to the passion and death of Christ; it also includes the dismal tragedy of life un-lived by the many, and all the loss of passion and truth that goes with it."

Life un-lived is the greatest horror of all. When it was right there in front of us, and we chose something else, who is left to blame? So many possibilities, the miracle of eternity, the triumph over any difficulty life might bring what could we be thinking!

You see, life is not always about winning at all costs. "You can lose," says legendary basketball coach John Wooden, "when you outscore somebody in a game. And you can win when you're outscored."

It is, after all, more about how we play the game. It is more about the journey than the destination. It is about how we travel, and with whom we go, which determines where we shall go.

It's pretty simple. If we choose God, we find the truth. If we choose the world, we will suffer the consequences.

If we choose truth, and the God who is the only one who can give it, we will find life. And that life, while changing totally the way we live life in earth, lasts forever.