



The Liberating Power of The Truth (Part 1)
How One Truth Can Free You.

Date: September 6, 2020

Big Question: How much of the truth can you handle?

Side Truth: What is the **one truth** that could have changed your life?

Series Foundation Text: John 8:31-32 (NIV)

- 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “**If you hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples. 32 Then **you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”

Statement: Jesus is a **source** of truth for the woman at the well. The potential tragedy in this story are the things that could have **hindered** her ability to even hear the truth that freed her. There was racial bias, gender bias, geographic distance, theological error, and hatred that could have denied her access to the truth. (John 4:4-30, NIV)

I. Seven Unexpected Moments of Truth That Changed A Life

1. An Unexpected Route

v4 Now **he had to go through Samaria**. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

2. An Unexpected Request

v7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “**Will you give me a drink?**” 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. **How can you ask me for a drink?**” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

3. An Unexpected Claim

v10 Jesus answered her, “**If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.**” 11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” 13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but **whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst**. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

4. An Unexpected Revelation

v15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” 16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” 17 “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “**You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.**”



5. An Expected Response (She defends herself)

v19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that **you are a prophet**. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

- She labels Jesus a **prophet** (v19)
- She hides behind a **physical place** of worship (v20-21)
- She is **theologically incorrect** about where worship happens (v21)
- She misunderstood that worship is **more about truth and sincerity than a location** (v22-24)

6. An Unexpected Conclusion (He says he is the Messiah)

v25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus declared, “**I, the one speaking to you—I am he.**”

7. An Unexpected Result Because of One Truth (She dropped Everything)

v27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, **29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.** Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Question: How do you respond to the one truth you need to deal with in your life?

Conclusion:

**II. An Unexpected Question That Came to My Mind
(Can I Look Back and Handle the Truth Behind Me?)**

Closing Question for Today: What was the one truth that I could not handle years ago?

My Answers:

1. That certain relationships and activities would not have **value**
2. My **happiness** cannot be the responsibility of the people around me
3. God was not **responsible** for all my life outcomes (There is a role I played; **Galatians 6:7-9**)
4. Financial advancement is **impossible** in certain life-style models, families and cultures
5. Sometimes you **cannot go back**, all you can do is go forward, (**Philippians 3:13**)
6. Success will take **longer** than expected (It takes a while to get the right pieces in the right places)
7. I had good **reasons** for not doing some good things (Covenant Conflicts)

Next Time: How Truth Comes (In ways you often never expect)

Read Ahead: John 4:7-9