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**SERMON NOTES March 14, 2021**

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

**John 18:28-40**  
**Kingdom of Truth**  
**Pastor Mike**

Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_

*Approaches to truth;*

I. The pursuit & defense of our \_\_\_\_\_ blinds us to \_\_\_\_\_

a. Our desires \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth

b. We put ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ truth as it's \_\_\_\_\_

c. We \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves & \_\_\_\_\_ others through \_\_\_\_\_

II. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ truth as an intellectual skeptic

III. Submit to the king and the power of \_\_\_\_\_

a. What is \_\_\_\_\_

b. The \_\_\_\_\_ of submitting to truth

c. In submitting to truth we find \_\_\_\_\_

*Closing Question; What keeps us from \_\_\_\_\_*

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. A generation ago virtually everyone agreed on the definition of truth. People may have disagreed about what was true and what was false, but they all agreed upon the concept of truth. But in today's culture, the definition of truth is very much up for debate.
  - a. How important is the definition of truth?
  - b. What has changed in our culture so that we no longer agree upon the definition of truth, or the meaning of the concept of truth?
  - c. What are some of the different ideas about and definitions of truth that you have heard or interacted with?
  
2. In John 18:37 Jesus said, *"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."*
  - a. Jesus teaches that his purpose for coming into the world is to *"bear witness to the truth."* What is the truth that Jesus came to bear witness to?
  - b. What does Jesus mean when he says, *"everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice?"* Can a person reject Jesus and know the truth? Why or why not?
  
3. The Jewish religious leaders of Jesus day studied the law and talked about looking for the prophesied Messiah, but they rejected Jesus and were unable to see the truth of his teaching. Why were they so blind to his truth? What can and should we learn about ourselves from their example?
  
4. Jesus' answer, *"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"* was in response to Pilate's question if he was a king. Jesus was describing the nature of his authority as king and of his kingdom.
  - a. Kingdoms are defined by the power and authority to conquer. Jesus said that his kingdom is not of this world, defined by the power of physical force, but it spiritual and is marked by the power of truth. How is truth a power that conquers?
  - b. If as followers of Jesus, we seek to further his kingdom, what does the fact that this is a kingdom of truth teach us about our responsibility?
  
5. In John 8:31-32 Jesus told the people who 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."*
  - a. What is the truth that Jesus is describing here, and how does this truth set us free?
  - b. When Jesus teaches that we need to know the truth, and that the truth will set you free, he is clearly teaching that we are not free – that we are in bondage and need to be set free. What is Jesus teaching here? How are we not free, but in reality, a slave to sin?
  - c. Many non-Christians would argue that they are free in their sin, and following Christ is a limit to their freedom because it calls us to submit to his leadership in our life, and their freedom is limited to his moral rules. How would you respond to this argument? How do we gain freedom by submitting to the Lordship of Christ in our lives?