

Scripture Reference: [Luke Chapters 6&7](#)

Opening: Idiot Story #5

Finish this statement ... You shall know the truth \_\_\_\_\_.

Who made this statement? Reference? [\(John 7:32\)](#) What does it mean? Now there is the important question.

### **Sorting out the Truth**

We are lied to often and in such clever ways.

I have, as I am sure you have also, been closely following the war progress. You know that not everything you hear is accurate ...

I was **aghast** listening to the Iraqi Information Minister’s news conference relating to the position of American Troops ...

Are the Americans outside the city of Baghdad are they fighting to take over the airport?

Answer ... no they are nowhere near the city or the airport. Where are they? They are nowhere ... they are like a snake slithering through the desert.

**Lies so boldfaced that they leave us speechless.**

We know we also face a crisis for truth within our nation and culture and media.

### **Illustration**

Robert Ludlum’s best selling novel, The Bourne Identity, has a main character named Jason Bourne.

Due to severe trauma he suffers from amnesia. Try as he may he cannot remember who he is yet faces terrible danger.

Think about this ... **a person with no memory is a person with no past and more importantly no future!**

**A person with no foundation is a person devoid of truth.** They have no identity, no values, no reason for existing.

**Turn to Luke 6** Multitudes are drawn to Jesus

⇒ Only three years of public ministry, yet that was enough to change the world forever.

During those short years he drew all types of people to him. Some came for curiosity, some envy, but most were those who were searching for answers they could not find anywhere else.

**These people wanted to identify with this man whose words and actions matched each other.** Essence of Truth

Truth and identity are connected so are truth and love. If you love someone being honest is at the core of the relationship. Nothing will destroy a marriage faster than lies.

**A Biopsy of Jesus life**

**Read Luke 6:17,19**

Multitudes came from everywhere to hear him, and he healed them of diseases ...

**They wanted to touch him** this was so different from religious leaders of the day and nation, who were stand offish and inaccessible.

Jesus was a celebrity but did not behave like one.

**Jesus did not have an identity crisis!** He knew who he was and why he had come!

Do we? Do you?

**A sampling** of his teachings. The Beatitudes

*Verse 20 "...Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of God"*

Do you ever hear teaching about what a blessing it is to be poor, instead our culture and most of our churches defer to the blessings of being secure ... poverty is a curse not a blessing or is it?

**Verse 21** *"Blessed are they that hunger now for they shall be filled..."* Is Jesus just referring to food? If you want to know why the church in North America has become complacent, study this passage!

*Verse 22 "Blessed are you when men hate you, exclude you from their company, revile you calling you evil because you **identify** with me. (my paraphrase)*

*Verse 35 "love your enemies, and so do good..."* does this mean we should never go to war? If you think so you need to read Joshua chapter 5 again.

★ Jesus tempered the letter of the law with the Spirit of the law! Something we can no longer legally do since we have declared a separation between church and state. A statement by the way is not part of the Constitution or any of the amendments.

Jesus knew who he was and his purpose for being. Do we know who we are as his disciples?

**Read Luke 7: 20-22 Jesus sends a letter**

Jesus sends word to his imprisoned cousin John The Baptist

In this amazing little passage the Holy Spirit gives us a porthole into the soul of Jesus.

*This passage reveals not just what Jesus did but who he really is.*

**Key verse 22** Message sent to John by his disciples who had been traveling with Jesus *"...what you have seen and heard, "the blind see, the lame walk ..."*

Jesus knew John would understand because John knew Old Testament Scripture

He was quoting four separate passages from the book of Isaiah all referring to the Messiah the promised one. Isaiah 29:18 35:5 42:6 61:1

Jesus knew his purpose, but do we understand why he came? I'm not referring to eternally salvation paid for by his vicarious death on the cross.

Do you know what Jesus was about... what those three years of his ministry years were about?

**Serving others** was Jesus life and ministry ... think about those verses we just read ...

But what has happened to us as disciples today?

Rather than **self sacrificing** we are effected or perhaps I should say infected by our materialistic self absorbed culture to become "**self centered and self serving**"

**Illustration** tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

True Story about the lives of a former student and teacher who after 16 years re-establish a special relationship just months before Morrie dies from ALS, Lou Gehrig's Disease.

This disease destroys muscle function gradually over a period of years gradually robbing its victim of all muscle control to die once it reaches the lungs.

Morrie Schwartz a professor, counselor, psychologist, decides that instead of crawling into a shell of self pity, anger at life or God, he will invest the time he has left helping others see the value of life and the dignity of death over the course of his own demise and eventual death.

In short ... Morrie gives the last months of his life the way he gave the greater part of his life loving and serving others. Sound familiar?

**Quote** to Mitch at Morrie's bed side ... "So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others. Devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."

Morrie's decision to sacrifice his personal feelings and desires to help others wasn't his undoing; it was his salvation!

**Jesus words** the only way to save your life is to give it away. He was not speaking about laying your life down as martyr he was speaking about being a "**living sacrifice.**"

Closing

Spiritual life is not a state of mind; it is a condition of heart!

Where are you this morning?

Some of you are rejoicing in the new evidence of God's love for you or a recent victory over a problem you have been praying about.

Others are tired you feel worn out by the grind of life.

Several are dealing with specific family problems so frightening and embarrassing they can't shared with Christian friends, so you carry them alone not knowing how much

further you can go. God is your defender and is going to provide instructions and answers for you.

Some are standing at the edge of the cliff the scared to death you will soon fall in. You are not alone God wants to reveal his love to you today.

But most of you are in an even stranger place. Your life has been going pretty well but for some reason you are still empty. You keep doing better your finances are ok you have a nice home but something is not right. You love God but you know you have lost something. What is it?

The vision...