

No Greater Joy (Part I)

(5 17 09)

Intro

- **What's greatest joy for parents to see in their children?**
- **3rd John v. 4**
I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth.
- **Is this really true, that there is not greater joy?**
- **If so, what is truth?**
- I want to know. Won't you?
- **Many prominent people have asked this question?**
- Roman governor Pilate asked this to Jesus in John 18:38

What is Truth?

- Jesus was brought before Pilate
- Pilate asked are you the king of the Jews
- Jesus responded in John 18:37
You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to **testify to the truth**. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.
- In China – 1997
- Jesus actually went further in John 14:6
-I am the way, the truth, and the life.
- Imagine court system, where truth is always testified and accepted?

Rejecting Truth

- **Is it possible that in court of law, that some do not want to accept or tell the truth? Why?**
 - See some benefits for them, or
 - Just like to walk in their ways (ie. Delight in wickedness)
 - Consequences if discovered
- **Rom 2:8 says the same thing**
 - “But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.”
- **Consequences for those who are:**
 - Self-seeking, reject truth, & follow evil (synonymous)
- **Wait! I don't follow evil!!**

What is Following Evil

- **Some think ‘following evil’ is doing wicked things.**
 - Partial truth
- **Story in Luke 4 (after baptism)**
 - Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.
 - The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”
 - Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’”
- **What’s wrong with turning stone into bread?**
 - Isn’t it justified (i.e. starving)?
- **God’s gift always need to be taken in context**
 - Food & Sex
 - What is this context? Who do we follow?

Black & White

- **Story in Luke 4 (continue)**

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will be all yours.”

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

- **Satan can give us the things of this world**

- No debate from Jesus

- **His requirement: worship Him**

- “I don’t worship Satan”

- Many don’t understand this

- **No Gray in Kingdom of God: Black & White**

- Worship God or Not (No half Truth)

- Eve

Life is a Gift

Luke 4 (cont)

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- Times when we feel like giving up..
- “Life is so hard.. Better with God’
- Truth is “Life is a gift” (Rom 6:23. John 10:10)

Life is a Gift

- **Self-seeking, reject truth & following evil are synonymous**

- Living to please self (Bread)

- Living for the things of this world (Authority & splendor)

- Wanted to give up (Test God)

- **2Thes 2:10**

- They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

- **Many stories of**

- People wrongly accused and imprisoned

- When truth was eventually uncovered

- Prisoners released

- Imagine the joy

- **John 8:32**

- **No Greater Joy**

Prayer

- **Could one live such a life & accept truth?**
 - Living to please self (Bread)
 - Living for the things of this world (Authority & splendor)
 - Wanted to give up (Test God)

Why or why not?

- **What does 'Walking in Truth' mean to you now?**
- **Pray for one another.**

