

March 6th, Big Truth, Little Truth
Part 2 in the series 'Truth Be Known'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Discuss the following statement: "Part of our dilemma as humans is that we have lost sight of which truths are consequential and which are inconsequential."

Reflect on the following:

Russian dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn, reflecting on the horror that unfolded in Russia in the 20th century wrote: "If I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some sixty million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.'"

READ Matthew 6:25, 27, 31-33

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? **26** Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? **27** Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. **29** Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **30** If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31** So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

READ John 18:37

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" retorted Pilate.

How is truth intertwined with God's Kingdom?

Compared to the capital 'T' Truth of God, how are we to view everything else?

If we decide to first and foremost seek God's Kingdom, won't we neglect important issues?

Jesus said “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32). What kind of truths, therefore, might people be enslaved to before they know the capital ‘T’ Truth?

Read and discuss this quote by CS Lewis from an essay he wrote in 1948 called “On Living In An Atomic Age”:

“‘How are we to live in an atomic age?’ [In an age where the threat of a thermonuclear war is real]. I am tempted to reply: Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor vehicle accidents.’

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me ... you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways.

We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anaesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances... and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.”

What does focusing on the consequential Truth of Jesus, and seeking first God’s kingdom allow for in our own lives and in the world?