

The Whole Truth and Nothing But

Discerning the Truth Through the Mind of Christ

BREATHE

*This series invites us to **rediscover** the unchanging truth of the Gospel, **anchor** our lives in what is real, and **train** how to walk faithfully in God's truth amid confusion and distortion. But what we will address today goes deeper. There are what we might call "plain truths" or "common sense" or "absolute truth." Most reasonable people agree, we don't murder, lie, or steal. There are only two genders. You don't let men into the girl's locker room. **But what about more "NUANCED" discernments on reality?***

A Roadmap to the Soul: A Journey Within (shameless promo)

For example, there's a part of me that knows my wife Mona is a gifted, beautiful, loving, compassionate and godly woman. That is not my opinion. That is the objective truth according to Jesus.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this: that one lay down his life for another."

When my family found out that I needed a kidney transplant, everyone volunteered. I was especially teasing my son, Caleb, who is a perfect match. We're both B+. Caleb! No go drinking, braddah! You gotta take care my kidney! 😂

Reminds me of the story of when the pope needed a heart transplant.

All the Catholic faithful gathered outside St. Peter's Cathedral and cried out, "Take my heart, Papa!"

The pope was deeply moved by this and said, "Thank you, my people! But I cannot take your heart (what's with the Italian accent? The pope is American 🤔) So we will let our Father in Heaven decide.

I'm going to drop this feather, and on whoever this feather lands will donate their heart to me."

Getting back to Mona...

Another part of me thinks she is mean and controlling. Only one of those opinions is the actual Truth.

So it turns out, there are multiple versions of me!

But I am looking at her through two, make that THREE completely different personas with **three different belief systems and values** and therefore three different voices.

And the reality is all of us are like that

All of us have a WOUNDED CHILD, a PROTECTOR, who guards the child against being hurt, and your True Self, who is filled with the Holy Spirit and actually knows the Truth from the Mind of Christ!

You probably have no idea what I mean by any of this, but can you relate to my marriage problem?

[Slide: Academy Class: *A Roadmap to the Soul* coming in March!]

How many of us absolutely love our spouses *most of the time*? But there are moments when you know you can't divorce them because that's not God's will, but murder maybe?

But here's the absolute Truth about my wife, Mona. We don't have the same blood type. She's Type O and I am B+. But out of the blue one evening, she said, "Why can't I donate my kidney to you?"

Here's the crazy part of what she said. Earlier that day, I attended a kidney transplant seminar where I found out that Type O people are universal

donors. So she actually could donate her kidney to me! But she didn't know that when she said that! And I just found out that morning!!! God Thing! 🙏✝️🕊️

My wife is a godly woman filled with the Holy Spirit and that is the objective truth about her regardless of my mood swings, or which persona I happen to be operating from at the moment.

So in this message we're dealing with REALITY as Jesus sees it, not your arbitrary opinions, not your moody biases, or your deranged points of view.

We absolutely need to get past our prejudices and warped thinking and get to the God-honest Truth about reality.

So this message is expansive and all-encompassing. I'm not just talking your spouse, the Church, the Bible, politics, the world, and YOU!

1. Jesus is the Final Arbiter of the Truth.

"I AM the Truth" (John 14:6).

Let's pause and meditate on this statement for a moment.
The Truth isn't just a principle, a law, or a statement.x

For you Bible nerds, yes, Jesus is using the **Tetragrammaton**, this is the 4-letter name of God, YHWH. So He is (1) saying He is YHWH and (2) Jesus is telling us about the very nature of God. HE IS THE TRUTH. He isn't just "truthful" or "honest." HE IS TRUTH."

Jesus wasn't just a great TEACHER of what is TRUE. Jesus is saying that HE IS THE TRUTH. What does that mean?
Not just that He will tell you the Truth all the time, it is absolutely IMPOSSIBLE for Him to lie! He couldn't lie if He wanted to!

But here's something else you may have never meditated on before:

It means that the nature of TRUTH is personal and relational. That might sound scary, precarious, and untenable to us because our personal experience with relationships tell us that people are capricious, fluid, and unpredictable. A pastor might seem solid, good, and trustworthy but behind the scenes he is pornographic and adulterous! I still to this day have trust issues because of my bad experience with clergy!

Like the Rams, who are supposed to be Super Bowl Champs this year. But will they be? I have no idea. They build these big leads, then blow it in the end, requiring Matt Stafford to do some MVP stuff to win the game. So I like the Rams, but I don't trust them.

I like Donald Trump, but I don't trust him completely. I trust God.

Jesus is not like any person you have ever known. He is perfectly consistent, good, He never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

For you Bible nerds, Jesus is immutable.

We have the mind of Christ (the Holy Spirit) (1 Cor. 2:16).

For, "Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16 NLT).

But what I am actually addressing today goes deeper. There are what we might call "plain truths" or "common sense." Most agree, we don't murder, lie, or steal.

But what about more "NUANCED" discernments on reality? For example...

The Truth about John the Baptist and the STRUGGLE FOR IDENTITY

Are you Elijah? No. 😞

Jesus: John was Elijah. 😊

John 1:21: "And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.'"

Angel Gabriel said this...

Angel Gabriel to Zechariah (John's father)

So this is a spiritual revelation not a bible revelation. One of God's Holy spirits revealed this to Zechariah. Apparently he never told his son.

"He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17).

Jesus' Affirmation: On two separate occasions, Jesus identified John the Baptist as the fulfillment of the prophecy about Elijah's return.

"For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come" (Matthew 11:13-14).

After the transfiguration, the disciples asked about Elijah. Jesus replied, "...Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished... Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist" (Matthew 17:10-13).

So what is the Truth about John's identity? He wasn't just Isaiah's mysterious voice crying in the wilderness, he was actually the one who comes in the spirit and power of the Prophet Elijah!!!

How about you?

Maybe you think you're just a teacher, a soldier, a journeyman, a retiree, like a million others, but as you walk out your faith journey, you will discover the Truth about your real identity!

The last thing I wanted to do with my life was become a pastor. Back in the 70's I thought churches were ineffective and honestly, irrelevant. So I stuck with youth ministry. It was fun, deeply relational, and powerfully relevant. And the Lord showed me that His actual Church has always been fun, powerful, and relevant, and that everything I was doing in youth ministry was actually training me to be a pastor.

This happened out of relationship and obedience to Christ.

2. Discover the Truth about YOURSELF by following Jesus.

Secondly, this caught my attention.

The Truth about the Pharisees.

When John talked about himself being a “voice in the wilderness” that's from Isaiah.

There's no bible verse that says that the Pharisees are the sons of Satan.

On the outside these guys were highly revered, the religious leaders of the day. If anyone is going to heaven it would be them. Obviously!

But Jesus called them “sons of the Devil!”

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44, ESV).

This is so nuts to me on so many levels. First, that Jesus could discern this accurately. Second, that He spoke the quiet part out loud!

If Jesus was here in Hawaii, how many of us would say, “Eh, Jesus, no say dat about our religious leaders! Das not nice! They are God’s children too! They are pastors! And God loves them too.”

I can’t tell you how many times I’ve been told to be quiet about things I see.

NYC just elected an Islamic, socialist mayor. Really nice guy.

But here’s my concern, because the Church is too chicken to get its hands dirty in speaking to the issues of the day, like the Christian Church of Germany in 1930, we are not only going to have a dictator rule over America, we will actually vote him into office and the Republic will die to thunderous applause.

After the last couple of weeks of listening to this series, you might like me walk away thinking, I can’t trust anything I see! Did Pastor Earl really catch that huge Ahi? Did Pastor Mark really meet Jason Momoa? I don’t trust anything or anyone! I don’t believe pastors, fake news, social media! Maybe it’s AI? Well let me assure you, you can know the Truth.

AI gives you instant answers, it’s easy, fast and addictive. Walking in the Spirit is NOT like that!

I find the world we live in can be confusing, but God doesn’t want you to be confused or deceived. If you’re confused or deceived neither one of those is from God.

3. Discover the Truth about OTHERS by following Jesus.

YOU'VE BEEN RADICALIZED!

Does Jesus love everyone? Yes. "For God so loved everyone in the world."
Does Jesus want everyone to be saved? Yes. "who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4).

So Truth is a Person and He will help us discern the Truth about yourself and others. But this requires that we walk closely with the Spirit so we can...

4. Hear the Spirit's Voice of Truth

"We have the Mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Shut out all other voices except the voice of the Spirit in your mind.

Jesus is not here anymore. He has ascended and sits at the right hand of the Father. But the Holy Spirit is present within you. If you have issues with the Holy Spirit, you need to resolve those if you hope to make any progress towards knowing the truth. Jesus said,

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"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you" (John 14:26 ESV).

[Slide]

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come” (John 16:13).

Study the Bible from cover to cover

Humble yourself

I know you are absolutely sure you are right, but tell the person next to you, “I could be wrong.”

Have a prayerful conversation with the Spirit.

My Tesla Testimony

I loved driving my classics because I don't like car payments. So instead I created a sinking fund for a new car. I saved up what I thought would be enough.

My dream car was a new Tesla but the starting price was \$40k. Out of the budget.

I'm embarrassed to say that I really really wanted a new Tesla so I told Mona and my daughter Rachael I will lease to own. But remember my conviction? No car payments! In my heart I knew I shouldn't break that conviction but my carnal flesh wanted the car. So God gave me the grace to look for a used Tesla.

I went on cars.com and found all the used Teslas in my price range. I checked out two of them. Very nice. I was praying about which one to get when my wife says, “You don't know much about Teslas, why don't you ask someone to go with you to check it out?” The only guy I knew with a Tesla was Jonathon Lauren from church. So I texted him.

Here's the God Thing! 😊✝️🕊️

He said, “I'm selling my Tesla!”

So that's my Tesla-mony 😊

Don't just operate from impulse and flesh. Listen to the Spirit telling you what to do and to people who you trust and through your relationship with the Spirit let him tell you the Truth.

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION AND DISCUSSION

1. What is significant about "Jesus is the FINAL ARBITER" of the Truth?

[Answer (no fair peeking 😊): Jesus has the **FINAL SAY** on what is true and real!]

2. If Truth is a Person, what does that mean for your understanding of the Truth?

[We learn the Truth from our Spiritual journey in **RELATIONSHIP** with the Spirit of Jesus.]

3. What is the Truth about who you *really* are?
4. What is the Truth about people around you? People in your home? Your workplace? People governing over our State? People in the news? Etc.
5. How will you posture yourself to *listen* to the Voice of Truth?