Things We Love More Than the Truth May 9, 2021

*John 11:45-57 Series: Life, Full and Unending*

Sometimes people don't want to hear the truth because they don't want their illusions destroyed. — Friedrich Nietzsche

Intro: Truth died and nobody seems to mind

1. We love our position more than we love the truth
2. How could you not believe?

v. 45 *Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him …*

1. They loved their denomination more than the truth

v. 46 *but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done*

Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

1. They feared what they might lose

v. 47 *What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.*

v. 48 *If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe …*

v. 48 *the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation*

Susan David: Discomfort is the price of admission to a meaningful life.

* What examples of truthiness do you see in our society today?
* After seeing Jesus unmistakably raise Lazarus from the dead, why would some run to the Pharisees to try to stop to Him?
* What were the religious authorities afraid of losing?
* What might you have to lose in order to hold to the truth?

1. We love security more than we love the truth
2. Often, it’s the know-it-all who knows nothing

v. 49 *Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all.”*

v. 50 *Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people …*

Proverbs 11:2 *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.*

Isaiah 5:21 *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!*

Brendan Nyhan: Right now, it pays to be outrageous, but not to be truthful.

1. Caiaphas thought that Jesus’ death would save the nation but in the wrong way

v. 50 *it is better for you*

v. 50 *one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish*

v. 53 *from that day on they made plans to put him to death*

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*

1. Jesus knew that His death would save all of God’s people

v. 51 *He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation …*

v. 52 *not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad*

* What evidence do you see of Caiaphas’ pride?
* Is it okay to be a know-it-all if you know more about the Bible than most people? Why/why not?
* Why does it ‘pay’ to be outrageous but not truthful today?
* What should humility look like in a Christian leader?

1. We love religion more than we love the truth
2. The Saviour is hunted by those He came to save

v. 54 *Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews*

1. Though evil abounds, religion is in full swing

v. 55 *many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves*

v. 56 *They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?”*

Romans 10:2 *For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.*

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

1. Do you love the truth and the One who is the Truth?

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

* How is it that a purification ritual could be more popular than the One whom God had sent to purify the people?
* What does it mean to “have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge”? How can you tell that that’s not describing you?
* If we don’t love the truth God sends us a lie. What are some ways that you can love the truth?
* Why are religious people like us so susceptible to lies?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study John 12:1-11

Notes