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Market Street Fellowship

## **Knowing True Things or Walking In The Truth**

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I am reluctantly glad to share with you this morning, I was so encouraged last week when Tracy said she knew her job was just to give an account of what she'd seen. When she said it, it was so clear that that is what so much of being the body is about. But I'll get more to that in a few minutes.

I have been thinking a lot about what happens when we hear something real or true. I don't necessarily mean when God reveals something true to you, I mean when you just read something real in the Bible or you're sitting here and Pat or Steve or Chad or somebody says something that is true.

It seems to me when that happens we have two options. We can either turn our hearts in that moment to the one who is truth, or we can pick that little true thing up that we hear and add it to some kind of perceived repertoire of true things that we own and move on. Lately I have been doing a lot of the latter.

It's like there is something in me that thinks that just understanding what is real is enough. And I find myself taking true things, things that you all say or things I read and the best way I can think to describe it is like I'm putting them all into a little bottle that I can carry around with me and feel good about.

It's sort of like an old man who carries a flask of whisky in his pocket so that if he gets bored or if he ends up in a bad situation he can take it out and have a sip and everything will seem okay.

I feel safe because I know these true things, they are comforting to listen to, because I recognize the truth that is there, but in reality, if it stops there, then these things mean nothing to me other than that I know them because as long as they're in the bottle, I don't really have to reckon myself to them.

It's like I can look at this little bottle of true things I know and I can swirl it around sometimes and say, "Oh, yeah, that's really good," or, "hey, that Bible verse I read that's floating on the top there is just like this thing Julie said this morning." And that might seem like it's a good thing and maybe it is a good beginning, but the reality is that to know the one who is truth and not just understand true things, I have to drink it. I have to be reckoned to it.

What I've realized is that through this seemingly normal, comfortable process of hearing these good things and then bottling them up and carrying them around with me, I am trying to avoid the cross. And it's no surprise really that the Adam in me is trying to escape death through these things that look like good works – that's what he always does. Adam always thinks of how to preserve himself or how to hoard enough for himself that he won't ever go without.

Luke 12:16-21 – Parable of the man who stored up his crops.

The man in this story was not wanting – he thought he had everything he could need

– it was stored up not in a bottle that he carried with him but in a barn that was big enough to hold it and then he decided to kick back, relax, and enjoy how rich he had become.

I want to challenge you to at least consider that sometimes we do the same thing. By trying to store up everything we can find that is good or seems true, we appear rich to ourselves, and it makes us complacent.

It's like when things seem easy I start to think maybe I can survive the judgment or the cross. But I know in my heart that the cross is what I need. I have to be crushed in order to be raised up with him.

Luke 20:17-18.

Christ is the cornerstone. We can either willingly fall on him and be broken, or he will fall on us and shatter us. There is not an option that doesn't demand Adam's complete brokenness. What I would prefer to do is stand beside the stone and say this stone is really great, I believe it more than any of these other stones around here. It's more beautiful and I'm going to stand next to it my whole life. But that's not an option. I can't preserve Adam and know Christ.

So I started out by talking about when Tracy said she knew her responsibility for us was simply to give an account. And I agree with her, that is her responsibility. But that's not the end of the story, because we all also have a responsibility. Because nothing that Tracy says or anyone says can pry our eyes open. It's not like if she or Bo or whoever could just find the perfect words, truth would dawn in all our hearts. But what we share with each other might spark the desire in us to turn ourselves and see for ourselves what is true in Him, and that is why sharing with each other is so priceless..

If we just come here to learn facts from each other than this is no different from what I do at work every day. And if I think that knowing those facts or just understanding the right interpretation of whatever type and shadow from Leviticus is the end all and be all of this journey, then I am trying to escape the rock that is my fate. That cornerstone will be the end of the story in one way or another – there is not an option for me that does not involve his judgment. Even when Adam is trying his hardest to make it seem true, I know that I can't jump over the cross and keep going like nothing happened.

Philemon 1:5 "I hear of your love and the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints." (so, it seems like he's saying here, I know you're sharing true things with each other and that you love God, and that's good.) vs. 6: "and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective" (and how is it that our fellowship with each other becomes effective? Is it that the saints find the perfect words to communicate to each other or that their sermons have no mistakes in them or that they give you 3 nice little takeaways to add to your bottle of knowledge? No). He says "your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake (not for your own sake, it's not to Adam's benefit, but his.)

For a long time I wanted to believe that God had my best interests at heart. You hear those things like "God will never give you more than you can handle" or whatever. But I am starting to see now that God has his son's interests at heart. He is not faithful to Adam, he is faithful to Christ. He has turned his back on Adam and turned to Christ and invited me into that place with them. I know that I belong there, but I have to drink his truth first. I know that I can reckon Adam dead if I see it from

Christ's view. But from my own it seems like nonsense to want dead the very thing I feel like I want to protect. I'm going to read from 1 Corinthians 18. It says "For the word of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing" – when I am looking out of Adam's eyes, this whole thing that we do here seems like nonsense.

v. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside. Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (Skipping down to) v. 24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God.

So I just want to leave you with a challenge from Hebrews 10:38 – "But my righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul."

For now, we have the choice to shrink back, for a while. It might feel more comfortable for a while or seem like the best choice. We can question for a while whether we have to die at all. But if we don't shrink back, and if we recognize, through his view, that with the end of Adam comes the fullness of him who is life, then sharing Christ's life will be greater than anything we could have ever hoped for; far beyond what Adam could ever be capable of.