

Today in confirmation, we talked a lot about what is truth. What is it? Why is it that we believe what we believe and others believe different things? PreacherSam talked a little bit about it on Wednesday about baptism. Why do certain people believe that we baptize one way? We have to baptize at a certain time and others we don't really need to at all.

It's a good idea. It's a good question, and the confirmands actually came up with it on their own today, too. Why do we do what we do? Why do we read the Bible the way we do? Why do we sacrifice at Lent or not, depending on who we are? Why are our friends different in their beliefs than us? What is the truth? It's a hard question.

I don't know if today's reading actually gave us a better answer for it or not. There's a lot of confusion, a lot of turmoil in the world right now, just with us in general, not even including what happened back then. We are so bombarded with misinformation that we're expected to believe that it's the truth. We're expected to believe that everything we see on Facebook is true, right? We all know that we know, no matter what's online.

Dad has this wonderful app. I don't even know the name of it. One of his news apps, and it is always wrong. But we have to believe it, right? Because it's, it's the truth. It's the information that's out there. It's what we're told.

We get bombarded with information in every way, and we don't even realize it when we're talking to our friends when we're at pickup at school, when we're at Casey's, when we are at Git and Go. We always hear something, especially small town. Small towns are the best source of information.

I had a meeting with Courtney for Amos back at the beginning. It was a scheduled meeting. She was coming to talk to me about doing the Farm Crisis presentation. She was sitting in our parking lot. I got three text messages that somebody was at the church, and people wanted to know why, and they don't even go to our church.

That's the best part. We have such an influence out there. People are always wanting to know. They want to hear. They want to know what's going on. They want to be a part of it.

So, what is the truth? Is it what you see? Do we have to see it to believe it? What you hear, do you trust more information from one source than from another? Do you have to do it? Do you have to be a part of it physically? Do it yourself before you'll believe it?

And in the Earthly world. That's where most of our truth falls, right? We can hear it from a very reliable source. We can see it happen, but unless we do it ourselves, it's not necessarily true. That always amazes me.

That always amazes me with some of my friends that are on both sides. Both ends of the spectrum. They are extremely liberal and carry their own straws everywhere, And they are extremely conservative. They're on the far right, they know that everything on Truth Social is true. They know that everything they are told is absolutely true. How can it be true? Both ends.

Pilot, Ask Jesus, what is the truth? He calls him the king of Jews. We know today that Jesus is something much greater than that. We know that being a king is something completely different than what Jesus was and what he is. Being a king is an Earthly thing. It's an Earthly realm. It's not one of the truths we're born with. It's something that we created, and when I say it's not one of the truths we're born with, well, I mean, are the concepts that we know to be true, but we can't really define them. We don't know why we believe them.

Things like hunger. We know when we're hungry. We don't have to be told that we're hungry. We don't have to learn how to be hungry. We are born, knowing we're hungry. We're born, knowing that we are thirsty. We don't have to be taught that. We're born knowing what it means to be cold. What it means to be sick. What it means to be tired. What it means to be a stranger. Those are concepts we do not need to be taught. We don't need to be taught what love means. We already know that, too, and we know what perfection is. These are all things that God gave us before we were born. These are all ideas that we know to be true because they're written on our hearts in our Covenant with him. It's a part of what makes us who we are. It's the truth that we don't need to have explained to us because God and Jesus are so much greater than what we are. That unless we know those underlying factors, we can't appreciate who they truly are.

Look at the people that have problems with those opportunities. In this case look at Pilot. Pilot is a Roman is the governor of everything, and he has everyone coming at him for a million different reasons. Particularly in this case, he has the Jews coming at him and he doesn't understand why. He's hearing their version of the truth. He's hearing that Jesus is a terrible person and needs to be put to death, but they can't tell him why. So, what is he supposed to believe? Is he supposed to believe that Jesus is this terrible person, or is he supposed to believe that they're just doing this because they want him dead, and they don't want to do it because they don't have the authority to do it. He has to figure that out on his own because he doesn't have the same understanding that we do about truth. He doesn't know Jesus's love. He doesn't know the love of God, not in the same way that we do.

He's confronting that problem the entire time he's there, the entire time he's in Jerusalem. He has to feel and understand his own inner battles within himself about what is true love, what is true perfection, what true hope means? So he turns it back on them. He's, like, you can't tell me the truth about why we need to kill him, so, I'm gonna give you an option. You choose. He's supposed to be your king, your earthly king. He's supposed to be the leader of your people. You can pick him who has done nothing but good for the Jewish people. He's done nothing but good to the Pharisees to the Sadduchies. He's done nothing but good to the Gentiles. He hasn't murdered anybody. He's healed people, whether they believe in him or not. He's fed 5 000 people on a prayer.

The other person is a murderer. He kills Romans. He kills Jews. He kills all kinds in the name of trying to create freedom, earthly freedom. As opposed to Jesus, who is trying to create spiritual freedom, just trying to create everlasting love. And they choose the murderer.

What does that say about their truth? They're so ingrained in their life and their comfort that they have to choose evil over good? Does that truth make them feel better about themselves? That truth makes them believe that they're in the right. In a way, it's a good thing that they chose that. If they hadn't, Jesus wouldn't have died. He wouldn't have fulfilled the prophecies, and he wouldn't have been crucified so that we can live. And so that we can have a better understanding of the truth and what it means to love What it means to self-sacrifice In ways beyond earthly comprehension. The truth is that God loves us. Did Jesus love us? The truth is, we know how to be better people. We know to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty. That we have to give clothing to the cold, to visit the sick, the imprisoned, and to take care of the stranger.

I know, I say these a lot. That somewhere in the world, we've forgotten those things. We have forgotten that those are the truth. I know we haven't, because we are an excellent example, right, of showing that love at all times because we believe in the truth. We know the truth. We know that we are all God's children. It doesn't matter which church we go to. It doesn't matter what we say or do. We know the truth is that God is there for us, and with that, let us pray.