

IN PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH...& REALITY

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; That put darkness for light, and light for darkness; That put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! **Isaiah 5:21** Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!

I learned this truth in two extremely different settings:
Perfumania

Sushi

What do we need?

1. The / a palate cleanser!

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Romans 3:4 God forbid: **yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written**, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

A recognition: God is true

An admission: I'm not God / the truth

A submission: Let God be true and every man a liar **including** me

John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: For all his ways are judgment: **A God of truth and without iniquity, Just and right is he.**

Psalms 100:5 For the LORD **is good**; his **mercy** is everlasting; And his **truth** endureth to all generations.

Psalms 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: And every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Psalms 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, **And speaketh the truth in his heart.**

2. The double – nickel!

Luke 10:29 **But he, willing to justify himself**, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

Luke 11:27 And it came to pass, **as he spake these things**, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, **Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.**

Luke 11:28 **But he said, Yea rather**, blessed are they that **hear** the word of God, and **keep** it.

The issues:

➤ Self-justification → **why?**

➤ More than willing to **change** the subject → **why?**

Luke 14:12 Then said he also to him that bade him, **When thou makest a dinner or a supper**, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. **Luke 14:13** **But when thou makest a feast**, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: **Luke 14:14** And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the

resurrection of the just. **Luke 14:15** And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

1st nickel (A): the desire to be right

Obviously, this can grow to the desire to be righteous | self-righteous

Or, more right | more righteous

1st nickel (B): the desire to win

Flipside of the same nickel

As a young pastor I believed deeply that if a person did wrong / messed up / made a bad decision...sooner or later I would get an apology.

Why did I believe that?

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, **as** we forgive our debtors.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

2nd nickel (A): the desire to feel good about self

Thoughts:

- This **isn't** about guilt / feeling guilty
- This **isn't** about shaming
- This **is** about reality

The reality of who we are

- We are sinners → all of us
- We are limited
- We are not God
- We can & do make mistakes

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**

Job 40:3 Then Job answered the LORD, and said, **Job 40:4** Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. **Job 40:5** Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: Yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: But now mine eye seeth thee. **Job 42:6** Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent In dust and ashes.

Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone;** because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, **I am not worthy** that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

2nd nickel (B): the desire to look good to others

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, **that men should fear before him.**

Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing **before God:** for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

Ecclesiastes 8:12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them **that fear God, which fear before him:**

Ecclesiastes 8:13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; **because he feareth not before God.**