



Key References:

Luke 4:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Ephesians 4:14–16 (NIV)

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Romans 5:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 – SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Read Luke 4:16-21 where Jesus announces his ministry. **How the missional points in v18-19 match up to what we are called to do to the world around us today?**

Based on Ephesians 4:14-15 Mike said: “We need to speak the truth, but it must be spoken in love. Love without truth is not loving, but truth without love is not heard.” **Can you think of a time where you alienated someone through the speaking of truth without love?**

Mike also said: “We tend to lean one way or the other. We can oscillate between a whole lot of truth without love, and a whole lot of love with little truth. It’s a messy situation. But the good news is that we have a perfect example of truth and love in Jesus Christ” **How do you see Jesus as the perfect example of this? What specific parts of the gospels stand out to you in this way?**

Looking back at John 4 and the woman at the well from last week, Mike said that Jesus interacted with her from a place of mercy rather than a place of judgment that would have been expected from a conventional rabbi. **How, like Jesus, can we approach people in mercy instead of judgment?**

What does our culture find most offensive about The Gospel? If Jesus were physically here today, how would he interact with the most offended and far off people?

Why is The Gospel better received by the downtrodden and humble vs. the proud? How should this view point effect how we evangelize?

Mike said; “It’s not easy to speak the truth in love, even to the ones we love. But what is impossible for man is more than possible through Jesus Christ. The only way we can learn to do so is by spending time with Jesus, the source of our love. When we spend time with Jesus we become more like Him.” **Why do Christians who spend more time with Jesus have an easier time speaking the truth in love? Why do we fail to speak truth in love when we do it just from ourselves?**

Read Romans 5:6-8. **Why should we keep this verse in mind when thinking about those who are far away from God?**