



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

Love Walked Among Us: Truth Telling

Mt. 23:27; Is. 42:3; Mt. 18:15; Heb. 4:12; Mt. 22:15-16; 1 Cor. 4:2-5; 1 Tim. 1:15; Ps. 141:5; Prov. 27:5-6

April 24 & 25, 2021

### **Part 1: Pray**

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

### **Part 2: Read the Text**

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

### **Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon**

#### *Introduction*

1. As Christians, we are called to speak the truth in love, but often, we avoid telling the truth. Do you find it difficult to tell the truth to others? Why or why not?
2. Adam gave several examples of the consequences of not speaking hard truths to people. Can you think of examples from your own life where avoiding truth telling had negative consequences for you or someone else?

*Truth Telling: Bold Love.*

Matthew 23:27; Isaiah 42:3; Hebrews 4:12

1. We've come to view love like "safe spaces" where we won't be challenged ideologically and emotionally but unconditionally accepted and validated. How is Jesus' way of loving different from this safe view of love?
2. According to Adam, "Jesus blows up every bridge of self-salvation to bring us to the end of ourselves." What bridges has Jesus blown-up in your life?
3. Think about how Jesus interacted with different types of people. How did he approach arrogant people, like the Pharisees? How did he approach weak people, like the sinful woman who anointed him with ointment? What implications might this have for how we are to love others boldly?
4. How is Jesus' treatment of Judas at the Last Supper (John 13) an example of bold love? How does Jesus marry confrontation with grace?

*Truth Telling: Security.*

Matthew 22:15-16; 1 Corinthians 4:2-5

1. How does gospel security enable us to confront others with the truth?
2. Like Ellen DeGeneres, we all wear an "approval patch," constantly needing a small dose of approval to get ourselves through the day. To which people or things do you look to satisfy your cravings for approval?

3. Playwright Arthur Miller wrote, "I feel like I've carried around this sense of judgment. I could not escape it. I still felt like I needed to prove myself to others: to have somebody tell me that I was OK, that I was acceptable, that I was approved of." All of us, like Arthur Miller, are in a courtroom everyday, desperate for the approval of others. How can we escape the courtroom? How does escaping the courtroom change how we relate to others?

*Truth Telling: On Yourself.*

1 Timothy 1:15; Psalm 141:5; Proverbs 27:5-6

1. Gospel security allows us to not only hear the truth about ourselves but to also seek out the truth about ourselves. Do you make it a point to habitually seek out the truth about yourself from those you are closest to? Why or why not?
2. Why is confronting the truth about ourselves the important foundation for confronting others with the truth? (Think about the example Adam gave of confronting his son Sam's behavior with repentance instead of harshness).

**Part 4: Summarize the Message**

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?